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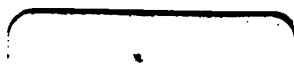


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PEARL SUMMERS

ALFRED ASKIN WRIGHT

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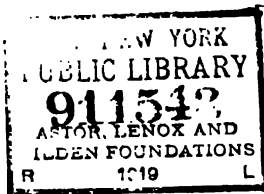
BY
ALFRED ASKIN WRIGHT
Author of "Spiritual Science", "Mystic Science"
and many Poems, Plays, Etc.



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DEDICATED

*To the loyal citizens of the United States of
America and her allies, who have taken
up arms, in the defence of their
country, their homes and
true Democracy*

on run week: 12.11.19

OUR FLAG

The Emblem of Liberty
Standing for truth and right.
Long may it wave,
In every one's sight.

Inspiring our own heart
With devotion and pride,
Giving our life, if need be,
As our fathers have died.

Defending its true colors,
Acclaim to the world,
From now on and forever,
Old Glory remains unfurled.

—A. A. W.

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PEARL SUMMERS

CHAPTER I.

TRIP TO HONOLULU


On the deck of an ocean steamship sailing from San Francisco, California, to Honolulu one pleasant afternoon in November 1916, sat Jack Carlton, a young man, reading a magazine. He was tall, handsome and muscular, with brown, curly hair and blue eyes.

Sitting beside him was an elderly man, with grey hair, florid complexion, blue eyes and clear-cut features, evidently a man of culture and wealth. He was resting easily on one of the steamer chairs, gazing out on the rolling sea as the steamship headed westward, gradually turning south, bound for the Hawaiian Islands—the sea gulls were flying near by, some resting on the steamship; the sun was midday in the heavens—when suddenly there rose a cry on deck which attracted Jack's attention. He leaped to his feet and turning to the elderly gentleman hurriedly exclaimed:

“Dad; you stay here while I see what the excitement is about.”

As he mingled with the throng that headed for the Second Cabin quarters and bent on being the first to render aid to anyone in dis-

tress—he was surprised to see at the head of the stairs a lad of 17 years, who was thin and poorly dressed and with a woebegone look on his face and downcast eyes, he stood there, as a burly officer held him by the collar and was using some very strong language toward the boy, who, upon inquiry, Jack found, had been a stowaway, and this officer had found him tucked away in the steward's pantry after the ship had been one day out. It was a pitiable sight to see the youth as he stood there, and Jack's heart was touched with a deep sympathy that prompted him to go nearer to the boy and slip into his hand a gold piece, speaking a few words of encouragement to this youthful wanderer, who looked up into his face and said; "Thank you" rather feebly but gratefully as he placed the gold in his pocket. Others seeing Jack's act of kindness followed his example, responding most generously until the fund collected proved quite an asset to the youthful traveler, who saw before him only a return trip to the port from which he had embarked, for he knew this was a law of the high seas, the sending back by the next passing steamer, all such stowaways. Youths who had dreamed of adventure only to wake to stern realities controlled or mastered by even more stern human minds. This information was explained to all those who were interested, as they observed a vessel coming toward them, in answer to the strong blast



of the whistle that first attracted the attention of Jack, and now as the approaching steamer came nearer, the deck hands made loose the small boat and lowered it over the side of the steamer, and a rope ladder was dropped over the side and the boy was told to go down this and get into the boat, that stood waiting for him below; the lad walked to the side of the ship and without much hesitation descended after thanking those on board for their kindness; then the officer in the boat rowed over to the other steamer and made the transfer, coming back in a short time and the voyage was resumed. Jack was leaning against the rail on the upper deck, having related his experience to his father, when he saw a group of young folk, evidently a party of society people, coming toward the open space on the deck, to play a game of shuffle board; there were three young ladies and three young men, but what attracted Jack to the party was the beauty of one of the young ladies; she was dressed in a white duck skirt, blue sweater and wore a steamer cap that set off her beautiful features to advantage. Her eyes were of the heavenly blue type, her hair was golden, her figure perfect, an ideal that Jack had never before realized could possibly be claimed by any of the fair sex, and as he watched her play, his interest grew, and he then and there resolved to become acquainted with this fair maiden, and it was not long before he found his am-

bitions realized; it came about when after dinner as he was strolling along the deck, that he met one of the young men who happened to be promenading and who asked Jack if he had a match.

"Certainly, with pleasure!" he exclaimed as he realized this was the opportunity for him to become acquainted with his ideal and he went about it with caution in his usual diplomatic way.

"Delightful evening!" remarked the young man.

"It certainly is," replied Jack who, having lit the cigar the young man handed him, was puffing away as they both walked together along the length of the deck.

"My name is Jack Carlton," said Jack as he extended his hand to the other chap, who took it with characteristic warmth.

"Mine is Raymond Summers," said he cordially.

The manner of the two seemed most unusual, but when two young men meet and each seems to realize the worth of the other, there is a spontaneous enthusiasm that proves to us that we are all brothers, and the theory that "Birds of a feather flock together," was clearly proven in this case.

Raymond was a youth of twenty-five years, manly looking, with a smile playing about his lips that seemed to attract every one who met him; he and Jack were about the same age and as they walked around the

deck for half an hour chatting pleasantly, they met some of the other members of the party, including Raymond's sister to whom Jack was introduced. Then they all strolled about the deck. Jack was delighted to have been so fortunate as to meet Miss Summers so early in the voyage and he saw ahead of him many days of conscious bliss, as he had learned from her brother that the party were from New York and had been visiting the Coast and had decided to see the islands before returning eastward for the Christmas season.


Jack managed to pair off with Pearl Summers, who cordially accepted his company, for a stroll about deck, as the full moon was just coming up and the calm water reflected the beams, making the setting for our picture a romantic one, as the couple took seats on the top deck away from the throng that patrolled the next deck below.

They talked of art, books, music and love, and as these two young people of equal loving natures, sat side by side, they seemed intuitively to realize that they were treading on dangerous ground, but why care for the consequences, when one sees in the other's eyes that love light that speaks for the heart and soul, the passion of love for one another; love at first sight, that seemed to decide their fate, then and there. And they were happy in each other's company, these two souls whom God had made for one another, they

had found their own mate and no power on earth could separate that union. Who would rend asunder two such lovers as this? Words were not necessary for them, Jack's manly appearance and gentleness spake more than words, and her sweet and pure soul spoke through her contented smile, as she took the hand that Jack extended to her and felt the love thrill that comes to every maiden some time in her life, this supreme moment had arrived for both and they were happy, an hour passed when Jack looking at his watch thought they had better join the others, but before doing so Pearl remarked:

"Jack, don't be surprised if you catch a glimpse of the green-eyed monster in the course of our acquaintance, jealousy is like the air we breathe in many natures indwelling and everywhere present. Harry Thompson is not an exception, we have spent much time together and he may feel a resentment. However I will meet you tomorrow morning, I want you to join the party, for the ship steward has promised to have games of all kinds on deck, for the amusement of all the passengers, especially first-class ones, they will be the favored ones, in all the events," said she.

"I'll be on hand and I'll try not to show any unusual attention to you for your sake, but in my heart, Dear, I'll be glad when the opportunity comes again to have the sole pleasure of your presence as I have found



the one girl in the world for me," said he, looking with tenderness into her eyes as they slowly wandered back to the parlor and found the others, who were engaged in playing whist at several of the tables; their absence was not noticed, at least nothing was said at the time; but judging from the look which Harry Thompson gave Pearl as she took a seat at the table next to his, with Jack sitting opposite, was indication that there was some disappointment to him, but love will find its own mate, some time, somewhere, either in this life or in the next; but how fortunate for the pair who meet on this mundane sphere when in the youthful years this union comes to both, and to be in love for the first time is heaven on earth.

When Jack retired that night it was not to sleep, but to think over his good luck in meeting the girl he had been looking for in his many travels, the world over, and now he had found her, it took a powerful effort on his part to quiet his brain enough to go to sleep and then only to dream of her all the night long but to wake up with a smile in the thought that, today, he would see her.

Dressing with some extra attention he strolled out on deck before breakfast for a smoke. The cool morning breeze fanned his cheeks as he paced the deck; then he went to the dining room and at breakfast he managed to have his seat changed nearer to Pearl, but not to intrude or to attract any at-

tention, but to be opposite so he could see her face at each meal.

After breakfast Jack joined the party again, and entered earnestly into all the arrangements for the contests and games, that were to take up most of the morning: Such events as Potato Races, Sack Races, Blindfold, and place the tail on the donkey and all the other games too numerous to mention.

The Sack Race was won by Jack and he was awarded a suitable prize, which was a cigarette case. Harry Thompson won the Potato Race for he was quick and finished three yards ahead of the others; then the girls had their turn which was a repetition of the men's games, and in one of the contests Pearl came out victorious. She was awarded a powder puff box, as winner of the Potato Race. Many other items of interest attended these games that made life on the ocean wave for travelers of the first class, one continuous round of pleasure; but all good things come to an end. As the voyage was over, when with beating heart Jack responded most cheerfully to join the party as Pearl had requested her brother to ask Jack and his father to tour the Islands with them.

Departing from the dock they were soon whisked away in the auto to a first class Hotel in the City of Honolulu; here they rested sufficiently and became used to the land again, for one gets so accustomed to the

motion of the boat, that it takes a little time to steady one's self.

"Suppose we have dinner now and take a trip around the Island," proposed Jack's father, who was a man of generous impulses.

"That will be delightful," exclaimed several of the party, as they prepared to enjoy their stay on the Island after dinner. The automobile called at the Hotel for the party who had now become well acquainted with Jack and his father. The other three members of the party were Charles Stafford, a cousin of Pearl, and the two young ladies were Belle and Maud, sisters of Harry Thompson; it was a family affair and very congenial except for the little worry on the part of Harry Thompson concerning Jack's attention to Pearl, which was more noticeable as the days passed and Jack's love was seen in his every act and his eyes told the story every time he talked with Pearl.


"Jack, come into our auto," remarked Raymond, who had noticed the attention Jack paid his sister and who had always indulged her whenever possible, and in this love affair he did not disapprove, as it looked like a good match and both families were of the very best in New York City.

"Thank you," Jack responded, joyfully taking the opportunity to ride in the same automobile with Pearl for Raymond and Maud occupied the front seat, Jack and Pearl the back one, both were happy; Jack's

father taking a seat with Belle while Harry and Charlie sat together. Judging from the expression on Harry's countenance, he was disappointed in not being asked to ride with Pearl.

Their first stop was at Waikiki Beach. Here all alighted and donned bathing suits to enjoy the exhilarating effect of the water of this wonderful tropical climate where the temperature varies only about ten degrees between summer and winter and the temperature of the water almost the same; it was delightful to see the natives ride upon the waves with their long flat boards manoeuvred in the water by the native standing up and coming in on the crest of the waves with their boards under their feet. Jack tried one but could not master it at first, later, was successful, however.

"Get into my boat," said a swarthy native who spoke good English to Jack's father; then he came and assisted him to enter the strange looking craft built with two long arched columns, one at each end extending out over the water on one side of the boat and at the end of each curved projection there was the long log that floated on top of the water; this made the boat quite safe as it could not tip over; it held the boat right side up and was quite a safe conveyance even in a storm. The boat itself was long and narrow—they are called outrigger canoes.




Jack's father was the only one who was not in bathing.

The native with two assistants took him out quite a distance and waiting until the favorable large wave was observed approaching hurriedly paddled toward the shore, the wave overtook them and lifted the boat high on its crest and then the three men rowed frantically to keep on top of the wave just as the others were doing on the boards. This was interesting to Jack's father who was a good athlete in his younger days and who appreciated the exhilaration in this sport on the waters of this delightful beach.

The natives are respectful and treat all visitors with due consideration.

"Come upstairs and have something to eat," proposed Raymond, (who by the way was a Banker in New York and reported to be one of the coming young millionaires as he inherited the estate of his father who left considerable property to be equally divided between Raymond and Pearl, but as yet it had not been adjusted by the administrator who was a lawyer of high standing in New York) after they had all dressed in their street clothes again. They joyfully assented, salt water bathing gives one an appetite.

Here one can get a first class meal served just as good as in the best Hotel in New York with about the same bill of fare and same prices prevailing. The waiter served this meal out on the veranda and the setting sun



made a beautiful picture, for the sunsets here are wonderful.

"Come as my guest to a theatre party to-night," Jack proposed.

"You can't lose us, we are in for all the fun going!" Raymond responded heartily for the rest.

Very shortly the whole party were traveling back to town through the delightful roadways with the overhanging vines and native plants on each side.

When they arrived at the Hotel Jack went up to the room which he and his father occupied and dressed for the evening, the balance of the party doing likewise, then coming down in the lobby they sat under the plants and listened to the sweet strains of the orchestra music rendered with the characteristic cleverness as only the natives can render with their string instruments and accompanied occasionally with songs by talented vocalists.

After dinner the party was conducted to the theatre. The performers consisted of New York talent and they gave a very creditable performance.

Jack and Pearl always managed to get seats together and when no one observed, many little messages were flashed to one another, either by the eye or a pressure of the hand, which meant volumes to these two beating hearts.

Visiting all the places of interest by tour-

ing the Island by Railway and Automobile and going to the Bishop Museum, Aquarium, etc., required several days, then the boat took them to the Island of the Volcano or "Pit of Fire" at Hilo—where the eruptions took place—the effect was fascinating and they were there at the most favorable time when the eruption was at its greatest activity, at night one could see the lurid flare from the volcano, then the party was ready to go back to Honolulu. Preparations were made to return to the States after they had seen the many wonderful sights and the strange people. All of the party enjoyed the visit well and hoped some day they could take the trip again.

CHAPTER II.

JACK'S FATHER MARRIED

Arriving at San Francisco they took train to Los Angeles where they intended to stop for a short season, then to Pasadena where the New York set usually assembles in the winter. Many good hotels are here and they thrive on the guests alone that come from the east. One day while wandering through the beautiful gardens of the Hotel, Jack met an old acquaintance of his and it happened just when Pearl came in from a drive—she observed Jack talking to this handsomely dressed lady and for the first time felt the pangs of jealousy but her heart was overflowing with love for Jack and she dreaded the thought of anything coming between them, to separate them, how awful was the thought, for Jack and Pearl had been almost inseparable since their first meeting and each had pledged to love the other until death.

“Come over to my room, Jack, I want to see you on very urgent business!” exclaimed Julia Livingston and she shook Jack’s hand as they parted in the garden.

“Yes, I’ll call on you about 7 P. M.” he replied.

Jack kept the engagement and was sur-

prised to find such luxury displayed by one whom he had known as an acquaintance in New York and who was the wife of a very respectable merchant who had died and left a small inheritance but not enough to justify such extravagance. For the moment it puzzled Jack, but he was too much of a gentleman to inquire about this extra display but he waited to see what she had to say in regard to the nature of her invitation for him to call in regard to her urgent business.

"Jack, I have known you some years and I want to make of you a very strange request, and that you will not think I am crazy when I ask if you will do me the honor to pose as my husband. You of course know my former husband is dead but for reasons of my own I am supposed to be married again and there will be a lawyer here from Los Angeles who will expect to find my husband here waiting to give his signature—this lawyer thinks I have married again. Now be a good boy and do this favor for me, for I will pay you handsomely for it. I'll give you fifty thousand dollars if you do this, but if your conscience troubles you why not marry me and be my legal husband—then you can be free to get a divorce next day if you care to, but a husband I must have and within twenty-four hours or I stand to lose two hundred thousand dollars."

Jack stood dumbfounded and stared blankly into space trying to figure out the

part he was to play but held up his head proudly.

"My dear Mrs. Livingston, I'll have to hear your whole story before I can countenance your proposition or justify it, but please go on, I am interested," said he.

"Well it's this way, Jack," she continued (speaking calmly for one who had so much at stake, either to win or lose) "my husband invested his money in oil property in California and to a very considerable extent, so to make a long story short, in his will he stipulated that the oil properties should be mine two years after his death provided I married again in the meantime. Now, Jack, tomorrow at 2 P. M. the time will be up and if I do not produce a husband at that hour I stand to lose my oil property which will go to another relative of his; now you know the whole story and I want your assistance in this matter; that's the reason I had to come out here to California to sign the ownership papers of this stock and swear to the truth of the legal right I possess as his wife; but surely you are not married yourself and from what I knew of you in New York I daresay I was very bold to lay my plans before you but don't think ill of me and say I am a bad woman, Jack, for if I were of that stamp I would have tried to win someone who would place himself in the position as husband but who really might enforce his rights, but you I have known well enough to know if the

true facts were known you would give me advice to act upon before it is too late." She stopped and looked into his face to see if she could read the answer there but the look of perplexity soon gave way to one of decision as he said calmly but firmly:

"Now, Mrs. Livingston, I have heard your story and indeed it is rather a trying position for you but if I refuse to be your husband perhaps it is not too late to find someone suitable in some respects to justify you in marrying, for my prospects are rather unfavorable to accept your proposition and under the circumstances I could not think of doing so; my father has ample means to keep his family in style but I expect to go into his office when I reach New York and settle down and marry one of the finest little girls in the world; in fact she is in this Hotel now and to turn her down now would ruin my happiness and hers and while I will try and help you in your perplexing problem I cannot jeopardize my birthright and sell it for a mess of pottage. Why not meet me tonight at a gathering in our apartment. Father and I will entertain this delightful party that traveled so harmoniously together all through the Hawaiian Islands—then you may find someone whom you would be pleased to broach this subject to and if any word of mine can help I'll do all I can for you; I realize that if you lose you will be most uncomfortably near a bankrupt, but

for myself I could not think of it and would not encourage any of my friends but I can freely recommend your personal character and you have no reason to think you have openly compromised yourself by such an open confession as you have made to me. Will you come tonight?"

"Certainly I'll be only too glad to come but don't tell anyone of my predicament," replied she.

"I promise to keep quiet and see what turns up. I do hope events will turn in your favor, but keep up your courage and your self poise.

"I'll be going now and good luck to you," cheerfully exclaimed Jack as she closed the door after him.

Jack went directly to his own apartment and seated himself to ponder over the strange situation that confronted his friend, until a happy thought came to him which brightened him up considerably and he went about making preparations for the evening's entertainment, while his father was resting on the lounge when Jack came in to see him.

"I am quite anxious about my affairs in New York, so tomorrow let's pack up and go back for we have had quite a nice trip and the journey back will be made pleasant by stopping over at any place we may want to," he remarked.

Before Jack went to Honolulu he and his father stopped at one of the hotels in Yosem-

ite Valley for three days and enjoyed the wonderful scenery—

“Well, Dad, I’m ready to go and will make arrangements, but let it go for tonight and tomorrow we can pack up and be off for the East, so don’t worry, we had a good rest and a good time and will be fit as a fiddle. I am thankful, though, to have met our friends the Summers and the Thompsons and hope everything will turn out as well as I know they will,” replied Jack confidently as his expression brightened, for he had an idea which he thought would prove a blessing to someone, but hoped developments he had in mind would turn out as he wished.

Jack welcomed his guests with a hearty handshake that bespoke his true warmth of manly feeling for all his friends as they came in for the evening to enjoy a good social time.

Among the last to arrive was Mrs. Livingston, who came dressed in all her grandeur, for she was a woman who made a stunning appearance and came of the best stock, well bred and refined, and as Jack introduced her to each one of the guests he came to his father and presented her with the recommendation that he should take her in charge and see that she had a pleasant evening, while Jack soon found time to talk to Pearl, quietly and alone together.

“My dear, father and I are going back to New York tomorrow, but we will stop off

on the way, to relieve the monotony of the trip. We will go to Salt Lake City for a few days, then to Denver and Chicago for a day, but hope to see you when you arrive in New York, as your brother told me a few moments ago you intended to remain in this city for a few days," said Jack.

"I'm sorry I can't go east at the same time as you do, but will be contented to wait until you meet me in New York; then we will both be on familiar soil and at home. It will be ever so much better for us to wait until then, however, I'll be hurrying my brother to cut his visit short so I can reach New York as quickly as I can," said she, resting her hand in his and feeling assured it was perfect faith that let her heart rest content while the man she loved was going home where later they would again meet, and perhaps it was well she did not go any further into speculations but let things rest contentedly as they were.

"Don't doubt me dear, for I'll be true blue," Jack declared.

"I believe you," she said, with feeling.

Both wandered back into the parlor where Jack's father was found very much at home with Mrs. Livingston, who seemed greatly pleased to be able to appreciate what Mr. Carlton has just told her in his own characteristic style.

"Jack and I have been rather lonesome since Mrs. Carlton's death, I have been content to live alone as long as Jack remains

single, but from what I see I'm afraid he will want to assert his rights and vacate the old home to start one of his own and I'll not hinder him so long as he wishes to marry that very desirable young lady whom he met recently and who is now sitting opposite her brother, the one whom Jack came into the room with. She will make Jack a very good wife—but alas for me, I'll be quite lonesome without him," said he, sitting back in his chair rather resignedly.

"Why do you not marry, too?" asked Julia, abruptly, but with evident interest.

"Perhaps I will when I find the party who is willing to take an elderly man like myself," he replied doubtfully.

"What would you expect of a wife if you married her today?" she asked.

"Why if I were married today I think I would be very indulgent to my wife, but a man of my age can't command youth to do his bidding, as you know yourself—you are a widow—I suppose you will marry again?" questioned he, his curiosity aroused.

"Why yes, I would marry today if I could find a congenial companion, one who would not expect too much on such short acquaintance," said she, throwing out the hint to see if he would grasp it, her heart beating faster, for here was the solution to her problem; if she could get Jack's father to marry her then she would get the inheritance; she could not let the opportunity slip by without playing

her best cards to try and win out, but she had to use the utmost caution and not reveal the motive.

"How long has your husband been dead?" he asked, becoming interested.

"About two years," she replied.

"My wife has been dead five years and I have missed her so much and have been very lonely at times without her. Are you going back to New York soon?" asked he.

"Just as soon as I can get a little business straightened out here in California; perhaps I may get it fixed up tomorrow if my lawyer can complete the work," replied she rather shyly but leading up to the point.

"Jack is engaged to marry Miss Summers but will not marry her until he sees me completely settled in New York; perhaps he would find the solution to that problem if he saw me safely married again," said he.

"I am all alone, never had any children and would feel perfectly happy to marry again. I would not expect to marry a young man but at my age would feel very well contented to wed again," said she.

"If that is the case, why not marry me?" asked Mr. Carlton very bluntly but earnestly looking at the widow.

"Why, this is a proposal of marriage, Mr. Carlton, and I am so surprised I'll have to think it over for a moment," replied she, looking embarrassed. "But you may take some encouragement to yourself for if your

disposition is anything like your son's I would not hesitate one moment in joining my life with your own tomorrow. Now you can have my answer. Yes," replied she.

"Jack, come over here," called his father.

"What is it, father?" replied Jack, walking over to the couple who had so mysteriously pledged to marry one another.

"Would you be surprised, Jack, if I told you I was to be married tomorrow," said he, looking anxiously at him.

"Why, father, you surely don't mean it. Who is to be the lucky bride?" asked Jack innocently but suspecting all the time who it might be, yet not betraying any knowledge he had concerning the widow's plans.

"Mrs. Livingston has consented to be my wife, and we are to be married tomorrow morning at 10:30. Now, Jack, you are to inform the guests of our engagement and do so in a manner that would indicate a long acquaintance with one another, so others will not suspect such a hasty proposal, on such short acquaintance," said he.

"Friends, I have a very pleasing announcement to make tonight, it is this, my father and our friend, Mrs. Livingston, are to be married tomorrow morning at 10:30. He invites you all to the wedding, which will take place in these rooms; this is a surprise no doubt to all of you but a very happy one, we hope, and let us wish them all the joys of the occasion," said he. Then turning to

Pearl, Jack said feelingly: "My dear, our own engagement might as well be announced here and I'll tell you, friends, Pearl and I have decided to follow the trail of life together and become engaged, some time later in New York we will be married," said Jack.

"Allow me to congratulate you," said Raymond, "for it has been a surprise to me to learn of both engagements," extending his hands in warm congratulations to the father and Mrs. Livingston.

Each guest in turn extended hearty congratulations to both Mr. Carlton and Jack with their respective fiancées, for their future happiness.

"Jack will have to go to New York with his father and bride tomorrow evening," said Pearl to her brother, who came to inquire more fully into the engagement.

"It will be two weeks before we arrive in New York, so you can tell Jack just when he may expect you," said her brother affectionately.

The party at last broke up and good night was said, Jack and his father retiring to their apartment only to talk over the events of the evening.

"Dad, I hope you will be happy for I have known Julia for many years and she is certainly a very fine woman, as she is your wife she will stand to me as a mother and I will welcome her; so turn in and let's continue our dreams of happiness in slumberland."

Next morning bright and early both arose with the sun shining into their bedrooms, bringing a feeling of joyfulness into each soul, as this was the day for two hearts to enter into a union of harmony and domestic happiness.

"Jack, I want you to obtain the license and arrange for the minister. Have him come to the hotel at 10:15 A. M. and order flowers for decoration and a wedding dinner for ten guests to be served at 11:30, order the reservations for three on the Limited tonight," said he, in his usual business manner.

"Am sorry I can't order for four reservations but I know it will be best to let the arrangements stand," replied Jack, as he donned his hat to attend the many duties that lay before him. "It will be well to wait," remarked Mr. Carlton.

"Well, Dad, everything is attended to and I have the license, the dinner is ordered and the minister is coming on time, don't be surprised at anything that may happen this afternoon, for it will come out all right," said Jack.

"I'll dress now for the wedding," said his father.

"So will I," said Jack, taking off his coat and looking over his suit with care to see if it was in shape.

"Will you answer the bell, Jack?" said Mr. Carlton.

"Good morning, Julia, come right in,"

said Jack good naturedly, for his mood was a most happy one this morning.

"Thought I would come over to see if everything was all right and did you tell your father that my lawyer was to be on hand at three o'clock this afternoon, I have just received a 'phone message to that effect," said she, on the side, to Jack.

"No, not exactly, but I did intimate or say to him not to be surprised at anything that may happen this afternoon, and as there is no occasion for him ever to know the facts, what is the use of borrowing trouble? All will turn out well as far as I can see. All you have to do when the lawyer comes is to tell father that you told the lawyer to come up and get his signature to some paper as it required your husband's signature and post the lawyer to say nothing more when he asks father to sign, so that matter is easily arranged and no one of the guests will be the wiser and father will be only too glad I know to think you have such confidence in him as to place yourself thus in a very trying position on such short acquaintance, but you are a sensible woman and if you were not I should not have allowed the proceedings to go so far; go speak to father now and I'll see if everything is ready for the ceremony," said Jack, as he busied himself with the smaller details of arrangement, and in the meantime went to see his soul mate whom he found already dressed for the wedding.

"Pearl, you will find me ready when our time comes to be married," said he confidently.

"May we have the sun to shine on us as its bright rays shine on our prospective bride and groom today," said she.

"Pearl, you had better see if Julia wants you as you are to act as bridesmaid," said Jack, almost forgetting his errand in the pleasure of meeting his own betrothed.

"How delightful," said she, hurrying to attend to her duties.

"Raymond, don't forget the time and be over early," said Jack.

"I'll be over very soon," he replied.

"Good morning, Charles," said Jack.

"Hello, Jack, everything all right?" asked Stafford.

"Yes, everything going fine," taking his hat.

"Good morning, Mr. Thompson," said Jack.

"Good morning, Jack," replied he.

"Where are your sisters," asked Jack.

"They are just across the hall. They met Pearl and no doubt they will be here in a few moments," he replied cordially, as his feelings for Jack had undergone a change since he saw his chance to win Pearl's affection was useless.

"Make yourself at home," said Jack.

"Thanks," he replied.

"Good morning, ladies," said Jack.

"Good morning. Isn't it a lovely day? The Bride's day," replied Belle.

"Hope my wedding day will be just as bright," said Maud.

"Now, girls, make yourselves at home," said Jack cheerfully and informally.

"Glad to see you, Reverend Simpson," said Jack as he opened the door to admit the minister. "I will take your hat and please have a seat; we shall be ready soon," said Jack.

Jack then proceeded to arrange for the ceremony after requesting the minister to take his appointed place where the bridal couple would stand, he found a suitable arrangement for the guests, then he spoke to Raymond. "Tell your sister all is ready for her to come in now."

"What a pretty picture," said Maud to Belle as they beheld Julia and Pearl coming into the room, as Jack and his father came from the opposite direction; then all took their places before the minister; Jack stood beside his father and Pearl beside Julia. The minister with book in hand then read the ceremony and, after the usual questions, asked for the ring, which Jack produced, and the knot was tied. Congratulations were said and the wedding dinner served, and the sentiments of several were expressed in some very appropriate toasts suitable for the occasion.

The guests departed and preparation for

the trip eastward was made, when the lawyer arrived and was shown into the parlor.

"Madam Livingston, I believe," said he, extending his hand to her.

"No, Madam Carlton," she replied, "so you see I have complied with the stipulations in the will and here is a proof that I have done so," producing the Certificate of Marriage.

"Was the ceremony performed before twelve o'clock today?" asked the lawyer.

"Yes, at 10:30 this morning," she replied. "I hope you will be satisfied to turn over the papers so my husband can affix his signature according to the reading of the will."

"Perfectly proper, Madam," said he.

"Jack, call your father, please," requested Julia.

"Father, Julia wants you to sign a certain paper. She has asked the lawyer to draw it up; it pertains to some oil stocks and she wants you to sign it," looking over the papers himself carefully.

"If Julia wants me to sign I'll be glad to do so, but let me see if the papers are in proper order before I affix my signature." Looking them over carefully he signed them and handed them back to the lawyer, who affixed his signature also. After having Julia sign her name he handed the papers over to her and expressed a wish for the future happiness of the newly wedded couple.

"Good bye, Madam," said he, shaking her

hand, and, bidding all good bye, he departed.

"I am so happy," exclaimed Julia, embracing her husband, who returned the act with affection, we leave them here to a blissful and happy married life.

Train time is almost due and the three are hurrying to catch the limited that leaves Pasadena for the east.

"Jack, will you take care of the luggage and see that everything is all right, attend to Julia's trunk, too, and put them all together so that no mistake may be made when they arrive in New York. Suppose we only carry our suit cases and let the heavy trunks go straight along. Don't you think that would be best, Jack?" asked Mr. Carlton.

"A suit case for each one of us is enough to hold out from the rest of the baggage—but leave it to me and I'll see it is attended to," he replied.

"Keep out two suit cases for me, for my dresses take up more room than you men imagine," she replied. "And when you are down to the drug store, Jack, will you please purchase some articles for me?"

"Make out the list so I won't forget, as you know I am not familiar with all the paraphernalia the ladies use," he replied, as he put on his hat to hurry to the store nearby.


"Ring for a taxicab to come to the Hotel at 9 P. M., Julia, please, and tell them to be here on time as we have to make that train," says Mr. Carlton rather nervously.

"Yes, dear, I'll attend to it right away; and the expressman also will be here in an hour so everything will be out of the way; my, this was so unexpected, but I'm truly glad you were so situated we could leave so quickly, for I have no further use for the rooms here after today and shall always remember this day as long as I live, as one to bless and be thankful for. That's the way I want to express myself to you, James, and I do hope we shall always be as considerate towards one another and look after the others' happiness, as we have done," said she.

"I shall put my shoulder to the wheel and make things run smoothly, as a good husband should do," he replied.

Supper over, the cab arrives, all three are driven to the station and to Jack's surprise and pleasure Pearl and her brother, with the rest of the party, are assembled in a very convenient space in order to give the newly-weds a happy sendoff just as soon as they appeared on the platform; then a shower of rice was thrown all over the couple, Jack stood laughing at the surprised look of his father and bride on being bombarded with the rice; but they took it good naturedly and hurriedly bidding all good bye, sought their compartments on the Limited, while Jack lingered behind.

"Pearl, may I see you a few moments," Jack asked her tenderly.



"Why certainly," she replied, walking to his side with a smile of affection and a semblance of sadness at the thought of Jack's departure.

A word of cheer and a goodbye kiss, and a hug signified their devotion and faithfulness, one to the other, which meant so much to Jack and Pearl; two hearts, brought together as they were, should not be kept apart through any outside interference.

Jack waved to the party as the train pulled out and very shortly was soon out of sight.

Jack busied himself about his handbag, and deposited it in his compartment; then walked over to his parents' compartment and found them resting quietly as they were expecting his presence; now the train had started.

"Well, son, you have another mother to comfort and I do hope you will be as true to her as to your own dear mother, and we will be a happy family; am sorry, Jack, you could not bring your own fiancée with us, but it will be soon enough when she arrives in New York," said he.

"Jack, I will try to be a good mother to you and will do all I can to make you happy, I will help Pearl when she gets back East. I think she is a very beautiful girl and so very sensible; you have made no mistake, dear, in selecting her for your helpmate and there will be no cause to worry about your new mother not looking after your every com-

fort, for you do deserve all that is good and wholesome," said she.

"Thank you," he replied, as he kissed her and said good night to his father, retiring to his room to think over the unusual proceedings that have changed his life so suddenly, but full of hope and feeling that all will be for the best, he strolled through the cars for a walk as the porter made up his bed.

Jack read for an hour or more and presently found himself getting sleepy, so retired for the night.

Arising the next morning he dressed and found his parents had been up before him and were ready waiting for him to join them at breakfast in the dining car.

"Sleep well, son?" asked the father.

"Fairly well, father, but I very seldom sleep soundly on the train," he replied. "Did you sleep well, Julia, or shall I call you mother—which do you prefer me to use?"

"My boy, I'll call you son."

"That's fine, mother, so you are my mother always," and he took the lead into the dining car, where all three sat down to breakfast.

The days and nights passed as pleasantly as possible and when they stopped at Salt Lake City they felt relieved to stay a day or two here and break the journey. Touring the city in a private car owned by a friend of Jack's, they enjoyed it immensely, taking

in the Temple and several other places of interest. Then Denver was the next stop, with its fine buildings and businesslike streets and fine stores, they took train again.

"Jack, we'll go straight through to New York this time, and not stop off for sight seeing at any other point," said his father. So that night found them on the train heading for the great metropolis of the East, arriving there in due time and going directly to their house, where Jack had wired ahead so the servants could be prepared to receive them.

"Well, mother, this is our house," said Jack, as he and his father and mother stepped out of the automobile that had met them upon their arrival at the depot and had stopped at a palatial home on Riverside Drive.

"Jack, that reminds me, I have a fine apartment of my own on West End Avenue," she replied.

"Let us go inside; then you can make arrangements about it after you have had a rest and can talk it over later," replied Mr. Carlton.

"Here Tom, come attend to the baggage," cried Jack to the servant.


"Now, Julia, this home is yours and I hope you will feel perfectly at home here; you are the sole manager and your word is law here; I'll instruct the servants to that effect; we have quite a number of rooms that are not actually in use but we can save them for any

guests we may care to entertain," said Mr. Carlton.

"Thank you, dear, I know I'll feel perfectly at home for the very atmosphere breathes freedom and comfort," she replied, smiling. "Jack, why don't you take my own apartment; it would be fine for you and Pearl to start housekeeping; there are six nice large rooms and as they are already furnished why not take advantage of this; you are perfectly welcome to live in it when you are married, but of course you will be here until you care to go elsewhere; perhaps you and Pearl have made other arrangements; if so, don't let my plans interfere," she said.

"Why, isn't that great? Just the thing for Pearl and I; then we will be snug and happy all by ourselves," he replied. "Let's go over as soon as you are ready, mother, but take a good rest. I'll be anxious to see the rooms. Why, that's glorious news; I'll write to Pearl tonight to hasten home and I know she will be delighted. I'll have the chauffeur come over right away," as Jack left the room.

"My, what cozy rooms, parlor, three fine bedrooms, dining room and kitchen, just enough to start our new married life here and I'll certainly work hard to make a success of father's business, now he is about to retire," exclaimed Jack as he hurried back with his mother to the old homestead, filled with bright hopes and air castles for the future.



CHAPTER III.

PEARL ARRIVES IN NEW YORK

A week passed before a telegram reached Jack which stated that Pearl would arrive that afternoon at 1 o'clock and asking him to meet her at the station.

"George, come around with the car," Jack phoned the chauffeur, as they kept the car in a garage. Arriving at the station Jack waited patiently for the train which eventually made its appearance, and Pearl, Raymond and all the rest of the party were observed coming along the passageway.

Jack met Pearl and a hearty response to his greeting was made by the balance of the party.

"Come in my car, I think I can accommodate all and I'll drop you off at your several homes," Jack said rather generously.

"Yes, my home is in West Seventy-second Street," said Harry Thompson, so he and his sisters left at that address.

"Thank you, Jack, and God bless you for the many pleasant moments we had on our trip," said Belle.

"You're welcome, I'm sure," replied Jack.

"Where do you live, Mr. Stafford," Jack asked.

"West Ninety-first Street, Near Central Park West," he replied.

“All right, we’ll drive up there first before we go to Pearl’s house,” said Jack.

“Thank you again, Jack,” said Charles.

“Don’t mention it. Do you want to be my best man at the wedding—will you stand up for me, Charles?” asked Jack.

“You can count on me for sure,” replied Pearl’s cousin as he left the automobile and the chauffeur drove away.

“Now, Pearl, we will go to your home, which I believe is on West Fifty-eighth Street,” said Jack, ordering the chauffeur to take them down by way of Central Park West.

“Wait, Pearl, I’ll step out first so I can assist you to alight as the gallant knight used to do. May there never a time come when I will be less attentive to my sweetheart,” said he.

“Raymond, I am going in for only a few moments as I want to take Pearl out to see her new home,” he said to her brother.

“Do as you have a mind to, Jack. I’ll have to go downtown just as soon as I can to notify the office of my arrival and attend to some business of importance.

“This has been our home for many years, long before father died,” he replied.

Raymond had taken his father’s place in the home and at the office.

“I want to introduce you to my mother, Jack,” said Pearl as a very stately woman entered the room, holding out her arms to

embrace her only daughter and son; then cordially took Jack's hand.

"Jack, do you think I look like my mother?" Pearl asked.

"Very much, indeed," he replied, for the finely chiseled nose and chin and blue eyes and stately figure impressed him considerably.

The house was one of the old-fashioned kind, with high ceilings and large rooms, but a look of elegance was noticed in all the appointments displayed.

"Excuse me, folks, while I phone the office," said Raymond, as he left the room.

"Sit down for a while, Pearl. Aren't you going to stay? Take off your hat, dear," questioned her mother.

"Jack wants me to go to see our new home which he has selected out on West End Avenue and I am anxious to see it myself," she replied.

"Pearl has told me all about it in her letters," said Mrs. Summers, "and I hope now I have met you, Mr. Carlton, that you will be good to Pearl, for I have heard several people speak of you so highly that I know she will be in good hands, may you always be as happy as my husband and I were through all the years of our married life."

"I'll do my part, Mrs. Summers, to make Pearl happy and hope nothing will interfere with us in our course through life," responded Jack.

"Don't be long, dear, and come back as soon as you have seen the apartment, for I have a lot to tell you and I hope you will feel at home when you come to see Pearl any time you wish," said she.

"Thanks, Mrs. Summers, I'll be here quite often and am very much pleased to find such a cordial reception," said Jack as he took leave, walking down the steps with Pearl.

"What a fine neighborhood," said Pearl as the auto stopped in front of their future home.

"Yes, and the house is just as delightful. Come and see, dear," he replied.

"What dainty laces are on the beds. Wonderful! Just like the story of Cinderella, only this is true and the other is fiction," she said.

"Pearl, I have sent out the invitations and we may expect to be married at your home; then we can come right here to live, as at this season there is no pleasure in going on a trip; what do you say to it, dear?" said he.

"Why, honey, I think that is all right, and only five days separate us; what a pleasure it will be when you and I, dear, will be here to live as one, and nothing to mar our happiness," she replied, throwing her arms around his neck and kissing him fervently, for he was fine-looking, clean-cut, strong and had an amiable disposition; everyone liked him.

"Yes, dear, only a few days more and then I will have the finest little girl in the world

for my wife," embracing her in his big, strong arms.

"The distance to your father's home is not far from here, is it, Jack?" asked Pearl.

"No, only two blocks south and one west from here," he replied. "Shall we have a servant, dear?" asked Jack as he was about to leave the apartment."

"Don't you think it would be better, Jack, so I could go out sometimes; then there is so much to do, such as cooking and housework; we will have to advertise for one a day or two ahead of our wedding day, so she can come here and arrange everything," said she.

"I'll call at the employment bureau and see if I can find one suitable or we can stop in on our way downtown this afternoon," replied Jack, as he helped her into the automobile.

"Drive by way of Broadway, George," he instructed the chauffeur, and they soon arrived at the employment office.

"Have you got a good strong girl, one who can cook and do housework, too?" asked Jack, addressing the manager of the agency.

"I have several applicants and I'll let you see them yourself; they are sitting in the next room; please step in and pick out the one you want," she said, as they entered the room.

"Jack, there is one girl over in the corner

who looks bright and able to do considerable work, judging by her size," said Pearl.

"I'll talk to her and see," he replied.

"Did you ever cook?"

"Yes, and I do all kinds of housework," she replied anxiously.

"Would you like to work for us," Jack asked, feeling assured she was the right girl.

"I could try and if you give me the address I could come any time you say," she replied.

"Any children?" she asked.

"No," said Jack, blushing.

"The last place I worked they had four of the wildest children one ever saw and I vowed then I would never take a place with a similar lot of annoyances for a poor girl who has troubles of her own, instead of piling it on four deep—well, if you say the word, ma'am, I'll try it. My name is Hilda Johnson," said she.

"You can come to our West End Avenue home on next Monday morning, and that will be one day before our wedding day, which is next Tuesday, Hilda, and you are to get everything ready for us when we arrive Tuesday evening after the wedding," he replied.

"Oh, it is a newlywed I am to be working for? Well, God bless you, I was married myself once and my husband ran away with another woman, the scamp, and I have not laid eyes on him since and I hope you will not do the like to your lovely companion, for

it nearly killed me at the time, for I thought he was true and then I found out the truth soon enough," said she.

"Hilda, I am sorry for you," replied Pearl, with some feeling.

"Thanks, ma'am, it is not often I get very much sympathy, for one who has to work for another gets the worst of it every time. But your words of sympathy speak very well for you and I will try and do my best to please you, ma'am. Thank you again," she said as the couple departed.

"Jack, will you ever leave me for another woman?" inquired Pearl.

"Why, I can't think it possible, my dear, so don't worry over things that are not going to happen," he replied sympathetically.

"Good bye, Jack," said Pearl as she ran up the steps to her own home.

"Good bye, dear. I'll see you tonight and I want you to see our Riverside Drive home tomorrow," he replied.

CHAPTER IV.

HER MARRIAGE TO JACK

It was eight o'clock Tuesday evening at Pearl's home. This was the night of the wedding. In all the rooms of the house there was a glow of light; palms were about the rooms and floral decorations everywhere present.

The parlor was chosen to be the room where the ceremony was to take place.


The guests have arrived and some were seated around the rooms, the orchestra was playing some very delightful music and everything was so harmonious that it gave a peaceful atmosphere to the whole scene.

Now there is a stir at the entrance from the next room—the wedding march is heard and in the doorway appeared five very pretty children; with roses in their arms they advance into the room and immediately behind them were the prospective bride and groom, followed by Belle Thompson and Charles Stafford, who were the bridesmaid and best man; then followed the relations and immediate friends of the couple. The minister had been seated on the left hand side of the parlor and when the march began he arose and stood waiting until the head of the column reached him; then the little maids in front threw the roses over the spot where

the wedding was to be performed; they stepped aside and the couple came forward; then the bridesmaid and best man each took their respective positions. The minister then performed the ceremony.

Charles produced the ring, which was solemnly put on the finger of the bride, and a very pretty picture they both made—she with her beautiful face and gown—with the bridal veil and he with his fine figure and handsome countenance, that was envied by most all Jack's admirers. They were married under the most beautiful conditions that were possible for any young couple to start their married life. The minister kissed the bride and Jack took her into his manly arms and implanted a kiss of love that made a deep impression on the minds of the spectators; then Pearl turned, smiling, to receive the many congratulations of her relatives and friends, while Jack was busy receiving congratulations from all.

The bride was radiant and it was plain to be seen she was the happiest girl in the world. A scene like this only occurs once in most people's lives—the second love is not quite as romantic and impressionable as the first love—the newness and novelty is all there—one can compare such scenes as one might expect to see when they reach the spirit world, where their friends were ready to welcome them into the new life and the love in one's heart is here shown to be from



the heavenly source, for true love is born in heaven and vibrates on this planet of ours. What a heaven of bliss if two such lives are wedded together; then it is a union of harmony and happiness; may many such occasions be given to all of us to witness and, better still, to be the participants.

After the ceremony the supper was served and disposed of and many pleasing toasts were offered and many beautiful expressions of affection for the bride and groom were tendered. Jack responded with the following:

"My dear friends and kindred folks: In behalf of my dear wife and myself I appreciate the kind sentiments that have been showered upon us tonight, my heart is filled with gratitude to all for this outburst of kindly expression; may we hope in future years as we look back upon this scene to be encouraged and helped in the strength of co-operation through life, to keep burning the love and friendship of many true friends. It seems so much to each one of us, to have a friend who will be a friend, though adversity overtake us; he is the friend we will know for all time. I thank you."

After thus expressing himself, Jack sat down while the guests applauded.

"Speech from the bride," called out one of the guests.

"Pearl, dear, do you feel able to say a few words?" asked Jack, encouragingly.

"This is a surprise for me as I am not accustomed to speak in public, but my heartfelt thanks go out to all of you in this kindly demonstration of friendship. I believe, as Jack says, the test of our friendship is made when the trial comes at some future date, when the hand seeks those who are capable of bringing down into the heart this claim of universal brotherhood and kindly feeling for all, especially the old-time friend. It is with love and appreciation I extend to you my hand of friendship and invite you all to come and see us in our home any time you care to do so." She then seated herself with a composure that was outward only. Her pulse was high and her heart beat fast; the guests showed appreciation by proclaiming her the genius of the evening.

Dancing was indulged in and a very pleasant time for all who attended.

"Mrs. Carlton, allow me the pleasure of this next dance," asked a young man who had been admiring the fair bride all evening, but who had known her only slightly.

"Awfully sorry, but I am engaged for the dance; perhaps later I may give you a dance," she replied.

He, feeling somewhat crestfallen as he stood behind the others, watched her as she glided in her graceful way to the tuneful waltz.

"Pearl, may I have the next dance?" Jack asked anxiously, as this was the second one

he had asked her for, not caring to monopolize her company entirely for the evening.

"Certainly, dear, are you going to dance with Mrs. Van Runkle; she mentioned to me that she would like to dance with you; go ask her for the next dance," she said.

"Certainly, Pearl, I'll see her soon and arrange a dance," as Jack took his bride out in the adjoining room and they walked and talked like any sane young couple; then they went out into the conservatory—a room beautifully decorated with growing plants, and heated, for this time of the year was quite chilly outside, they seated themselves for a few moments and here we will draw the curtain and let them indulge in their honeymoon, for this is the extent of their journey, as they would not leave the city, but go directly to their new home that night. Soon they wandered back to the dance. Jack and Pearl were ready for the next number; then Mrs. Van Runkle danced very nimbly with Jack, as he glided gracefully over the floor; after the dance he took a seat beside the lady and entered into conversation.

"Mrs. Van Runkle, you must come over and visit us in our new home. Come over soon, won't you?" asked Jack.

"I shall be very glad to," she replied. "I was speaking to your wife about going to the Red Cross League and help make bandages and such work as they need; don't you think

you can spare her for the short time she would be required?"

"Why surely, I think she would be delighted to go. She can go any morning or afternoon and be home in time for the evening meal, when she and I will want to be together; then the evening could be left to our own selves. What did she say to the proposition, Mrs. Van Runkle?" he asked.

"She was delighted to be one of the workers and said she would ask you about it; now you can be prepared to give her up to the cause of the Red Cross work," she replied.

"Excuse me, I have the next dance with Miss Thompson," said Jack.

"We have another recruit for our Red Cross Society," said Mrs. Van Runkle to her next neighbor.

"Oh, indeed, and who is the party?" inquired Mrs. Nash.

"The bride of the evening, and she will be able to serve as soon as she can arrange matters at home," she replied.

"Our society is growing with many willing workers who are trying to do their part in this great world war," exclaimed Mrs. Nash.

"I heard that Mr. Carlton was likely to be called to the colors soon; that would be a real hardship for his wife, who is so much in love with him. I wonder how she would take it if he were called tomorrow," asked Mrs. Van Runkle.

"He is a graduate of West Point Military Academy and would be called as an officer in the Army," replied Mrs. Nash.

"Those are some of the trials of the war, and sometimes I think they are a blessing in disguise, for they inspire the women to do most noble work for it seems that if their loved ones were not out at the front then they would not be filled with the enthusiasm which stirs their very souls with true patriotism," said Mrs. Van Runkle as they were leaving.

The guests departed and with Jack and Pearl in their automobile ready to go to their new home, brings the wedding to a close.

"Hilda, is everything ready?" Jack asked, as he escorted his bride into their very elegant apartment.

"All is complete, sir, and you will find your apparel in your room, sir, together with your wife's gowns, which came today, sir."

"All right, Hilda, and don't disturb us in the morning, for I'll not get an early breakfast," he replied.

"Very well, sir."

"Hilda, will you bring me my kimona, as I think I'll use it now, and I want you to order the food for our luncheon tomorrow," said Pearl.

"I'll attend to it, ma'am," she replied as she went to get the garment and returned, giving it to Pearl, then departed.

"Sweetheart, we are home at last, like two doves in our little nest and may we always be happy as at this moment," Jack said.

Pearl went about making herself comfortable and placing her arms around her husband's neck she said:

"Jack, I hope this war will not call you away from me; at least not just at present, dear, for I could not stand the parting, if you, my big, brave husband, had to go; but it may be my trial and we are the ones who suffer, the ones left behind, as much as the ones going over the waters to fight," said Pearl, with a loving embrace and a fond kiss, as she sat upon his knee and stroked his hair.

"My dear wife, you must not think of my expectant call to the Colors tonight, for this is our wedding day, and it will be time enough then, when the call comes for me to serve my country and my flag, which every true American has the highest esteem for and is proud to be its defender; but don't worry, dear, I'll be with you even though I do go across the seas. I can come to you in my astral body and we can communicate that way just as well as if we were here in the flesh," said Jack soothingly.

"My big soldier boy is my hero, and when the time comes for you to go, dear, I'll stand up and salute you as my Comrade, for I, too, am going to work for our flag. I have been impressed to take up the Red Cross work, and it will be such a delight to see if in my

humble way I can do something for the boys who will need the services of the Red Cross. May heaven grant you, dear one, special guidance to bring you home to me," tears coming to her eyes, but these were tears of devotion to her country, as well as to her husband.

"Take off my shoes, dear," she asked, "and now you will have to play the part of the maid and unbutton my waist at the back."

"Anything else I can do?" he said.

"Only kiss me goodnight, sweetheart," she replied as she embraced him, and here we leave these young true hearts to their newly wedded bliss.

The sun shone brightly in the windows as they awoke and heard the bird singing sweetly in the adjoining room.

Jack took a cold plunge and came out feeling like a strong man.

"Hello, sweetheart, how is my dear this fine morning?" Jack asked.

"Never felt better in my life, dear. You must help fasten my dress in the back," she replied.

"This is the life of a lover. Why can't it always last?" said Jack.

"I wish it would last forever, with my gallant helpmate just as attentive to my wishes in my growing years as he is now," she replied.

"Let us think only of a happy and success-

ful future and we will attain our wish, for our supply is unlimited and love can be preserved only through increasing devotion," said Jack.

"Tell Hilda I want my toast only lightly browned, dear," said she.

Jack hurriedly went down to convey the message and then called to her that breakfast was served.

"I'll be right down," she replied.

Seated at a neatly arranged table these two young souls ate their first wedding breakfast. It was a most encouraging sight to see and realize that here was the flower of youth and womanhood, a sample of what Freedom and true morality might bring to every home if the power of love and the higher virtues predominate; these are the elements that are transmitted to the children and a healthy body and mind are the fruits of such a union.

Good breeding counts considerably and to be born well adds greatly whether the children will be successful or otherwise; there is more in this study of human nature than has been realized and if we take for instance the animal, if we want a fine specimen we search for the best pedigree for both parents before mating, then we may expect to get a full-bred royal offspring, the natural results of proper and careful mating.

A week passed by and still no notice of the call to arms came until one afternoon just at

1.30 o'clock a message came for Jack to report at once to headquarters.

"Jack, what are you studying about, you look so pale, any bad news?" she exclaimed, looking at him, half suspecting the truth.

"It has come at last, dear, and now I have to report at headquarters immediately; it may mean a day or two to get ready or it may mean immediate entry and service. However, I'll go and see at once and be right back, for whatever the duty is, I'll be ready." said Jack, straightening up.

"Dear boy, you will be called away, I fear, very soon, but I have been trying to bolster up myself to meet just such a message, and the blow has been broken now I realize it is for your country and for its service you are called," she replied.

Kissing her, he entered the automobile and drove himself, preferring to have something to occupy his mind for even such a short time, but the chauffeur was handy in case of need and Jack did not know to what department he might be detailed.

Arriving at headquarters he soon found a long line of young men who had received their notice to report, but the Major, who happened to be in sight as Jack entered, motioned for him to come over to his desk, as he knew Jack when he was a student at West Point Military Academy.

"Major Danforth, how fortunate to meet you here. I didn't know you had left the

Academy," exclaimed Jack, after saluting his superior officer.

"Yes, I left as soon as war was declared by the United States and have been appointed to this position. I heard you were married only recently. Allow me to congratulate you," responded the Major.

"Thank you. Now I am called to the Colors. I would like you to tell me if you know where I am to be placed," said Jack.

"I'll look it up—sit down for a moment," the Major replied as he left the room.

Jack took a seat and waited very patiently, thinking all the time what his wife would do when he was ordered to report for duty.

"While he sat there one lad, who looked as if he had been under great mental strain, attracted Jack's attention and he was following his movements when the Major appeared with the necessary data, and taking a seat at a nearby desk he read to Jack the fateful news of his entry into service as a commanding officer detailed to one of the barracks in New York State as instructor of recruits who were to be trained as officers, then when that duty was performed he was to be sent across to France as a commander of a regiment—that seemed very good news to Jack, as his one desire in life was to be at the head of his profession, and this was the opportunity."

"When am I to report for duty, Major?" Jack asked.

"Tomorrow you are to go to camp—and you are to report to Commander Stanton, who will have full authority of the entire camp; there you will be instructed and equipped for service, with full authority as instructor of the new army officer training camp. Other officers will leave the railroad station at 10:30 A. M., so you may expect to see me at the depot and a man from the office will be there to conduct you to the camp; you are to take only the necessary articles or trinkets that you may have occasion to use; but would advise you not to take anything you do not expect to make use of, as the Government supplies you with all articles of wearing apparel, etc."

The Major concluded his instructions and shook hands with Jack.

"Good bye, Major," Jack said.

"Good bye, my boy," he replied.

Both saluted and off went Jack to tell his wife of his early call to the duties before him. He was elated at the honor he had received as instructor at the camp and the early departure to France, but was sad at the prospect of being away from his wife for a long period, and the fact that none of the wives of officers were permitted to dwell near or in the camp barracks now, as it was the custom only in peace times.

Jack drove the auto around to see his father, who was in his office in the business dis-

trict, and who had no intimation that the call had come.

"Well, Dad, I'm off for duty tomorrow morning," Jack said as he entered his father's office.

"Well, my son, you should be proud to be called to the Colors of your beloved country as your grandfather served in the war of the Rebellion and he was a General, as you well know, for that is where you get your fighting blood from," the father remarked rather proudly.

"We have to uphold the honor of the house, Dad, so I'll not disgrace the name of Carlton by being a slacker, but will do all in my power and give to my country the best that is in me, to the very last drop of blood, if need be," Jack replied with much earnestness.

"Well spoken, son; now I'll phone to your mother and let her know of your call to the service," said he.

"Let me talk to her, father," he replied as he took the receiver. "Hello, mother. Well, I've got some news for you—am going to war tomorrow morning—take the 10:30 train to officers' training camp as instructor there, and in a short time to France—isn't that glorious? No, I haven't told my wife yet just what day I go but she knows I'm called; I'll go right up and tell her. Say, mother, I want you to go round to the house when I'm gone and take her in charge for a

while, will you? not that I'm afraid of her staying alone in the house, for Hilda will be there, but you know she will be one of the workers for the Red Cross Society which will take up most of her time; but cheer her up, won't you, dear? I'll be up to say good bye tonight. Thank you. Good bye," said Jack, as he hung up the receiver, and, bidding all the boys and the blue-eyed young lady who took the letters for his father, good bye, he took his departure, wondering when he would be the head of the large business which his father conducted, for his father had promised him that upon his retirement Jack should fill his place. Driving on the way home to his wife he stopped and bought a few little knickknacks he might need and a half dozen red roses to decorate the table; this was thoughtful of Jack and would be appreciated by his wife.

"Jack, is it true you have to go soon?" anxiously asked his wife, as Jack opened the door of the apartment.

"Yes, dear, tomorrow at 10:30 my train leaves for camp," and he then related to her about his commission as instructor.

"Won't I be able to see you before you go across to France?" she asked.

"Oh, yes, I may get a few days' furlough before sailing and then I will come straight to you, dear; the government will not allow the wives to live in camps in war time, but you will be a brave little girl, and don't give

way to your feelings," said Jack, as he tried to comfort his wife, who had been on the verge of crying at the thought of Jack leaving in the morning.

"You will write me every day, dear, won't you?" she asked.

"Yes, I'll promise to do so," he replied, and then they both embraced one another and in silence they sat without speaking for many minutes as though this act would have to do for the long absence abroad, and the thought of separation became more acute as the day passed; then it was time to go to his father, as he looked at his watch.


"Come, dear, let's go over to father's," Jack said tenderly, arising and taking his wife's outstretched arms in his he drew her to his bosom, as she sobbed as though her heart would break. He let her have her cry out, for it was better so. Then they went out.

"Pearl and I came over to see you folks; as this is my last night I could not think of going away without seeing you again," said Jack.

"Come to the theatre with us, children," said Jack's father. I have four tickets to the Grand Opera and it will help you pass the time away and will be a relief from the strain of parting in the morning."

"Dear, do you want to go?" asked Jack.

"If you do it will be all right," Pearl replied.



"Now that's settled, let's have something to eat; our cook has been away all afternoon and she just returned an hour ago, but suppose it will be ready soon," said Julia, as she went about to help.

At the opera that night there was a scene that thrilled both Jack and Pearl; it was a climax where one of the officers of a regiment fought a duel with a man of high authority, but this scene was in Europe, as such things don't happen in America; but Jack was going to Europe soon—perhaps he would be that very one who was wounded in the duel. The officer was carried off the stage, and Pearl thought of Jack and held his hand tightly.

"What's the matter, dear?" Jack asked.

"Oh, I was thinking if you might be stricken down by the enemy in the clash of battle, and carried away to the hospital, how it would really be possible for me to be the nurse who might be the one chosen by an act of Providence to nurse you back to life again.

"Why, Pearl, you surely are not thinking of being a nurse on the battle front, are you?" questioned Jack eagerly.

"It has just occurred to me at this minute, Jack, how very romantic it would be to have this very thing happen; oh, why can't I go to war, too, at least as a war nurse?" she asked.

"Well, we will talk it over later," he replied, as he sat and watched the play to the

end, but he kept thinking all the time about his wife as a nurse and it bothered him.


"Dad, what do you think of Pearl wanting to be a nurse over in France? Do you approve of it?" he asked.

"Why not, son; are you afraid of her loyalty to you or to her country?" he replied.

"No, not that, but you know such an attractive girl as Pearl would have so much to contend with. Everyone wanting to make eyes at her, she may be tempted to forget, but as to her loyalty I have not the least doubt," he replied.

"Let her go, Jack," said Julia. "I know enough of Pearl to say she can hold her head up and serve as a Red Cross nurse and do it with all the modesty and talent that is equal for the occasion, she will be best fitted to combat the many obstacles of the war nurses as she knows you are at the front, possibly near by, and as she may be busy doing this good work of humanity her thoughts and time will be occupied far better than if she were to stay at home brooding over your absence."

"Mother, I think you are right, and if Pearl wants to enlist why not send her to one of the best instruction camps or hospitals and take a training course and in a short time she will be able to go to France to begin her actual war work at the base hospital in the field," Jack replied.



"Now you all agree it is the best thing for me to do," said Pearl.

"Yes, dear, so you can decide just what to do yourself, or what hospital to go to. You can notify the government of your intentions as soon as possible and they will advise you what course of training you should pursue," Jack replied.

By this time the automobile reached the home on Riverside Drive and Jack bade his parents good bye and good night, then went home to talk over the matter further with Pearl; then they retired.

Bright and early next morning they were up and busy getting Jack's paraphernalia together, then a farewell kiss before starting to the depot.

"I'll keep you informed, Jack, just what I am doing," she said, as she said good bye to him at the railroad station as the train pulled out—she stood watching Jack as he waved to her from the rear platform; then gave orders to the chauffeur:

"George, drive me to the Riverside home."

They drove rapidly up Fifth Avenue then through Central Park and alighted in front of the home where in a few weeks the occupants would find both son and daughter on the high seas, one fighting the battle on the field and the other caring for the wounded—one just as needful as the other.

It was in the springtime that word came for Pearl to report for oversea duty as a Red

Cross nurse, as she was to leave with others in the same capacity to go to France.

Pearl reported, was outfitted properly, and comfortably located on one of the large steamships that was about to sail for France.

CHAPTER V.

SHE SERVES AS NURSE AT THE FRONT

Pearl was assigned a stateroom with another nurse whom she had met in the training school and felt she was going to be brave and not to be worried over the dangers of sea travel, and was glad she had a friend to talk to.

Then the whistle blew a long deep blast as the boat slowly moved out into the river.

"Good bye," she cried to several who stood on the pier and waved to her.

Passing the Statue of Liberty, Pearl and Anna Williams, her fellow nurse, stood looking at it and wondered if this same Emblem of Liberty would be placed in every country of the world, and how long it would be before this would happen.

"My torch will be kept burning," remarked Anna.

"And mine, too," replied Pearl.

They both wondered and prayed that this realization would soon come to all nations and peace would soon follow where the light of truth and liberty leads the way.

The trip was uneventful except for a storm which kept them for a day under closed hatches. Soon the journey was over, and France soon saw our valiant little band of

nurses, for their presence on the boat had been wirelessly ahead and the most cordial welcome was accorded them.

Pearl and Anna roomed together in the hotel until they were finally assigned to a hospital quite a distance from the front. There they stopped until they became very well acquainted with the nature of the wounds. They had quarters in this same building. They were kept very busy for three weeks until one day they were ordered to go to a base hospital further front.

"Anna, I want to show you a picture of my husband," said Pearl, taking a photograph out of her bag and handing it to her. "It was one that was taken in his officer's uniform when at the training camp, and the one he would probably wear if he went to France."

"Fine looking man, so handsome and courteous looking," said Anna, studying the face for some minutes before handing it back.

"Here is a photograph of a friend of mine who is a captain in the regulars, but who will receive a promotion soon. He is a very dear friend to me and for some time I have corresponded with him. He was stationed at the barracks in Texas before the war broke out and is still in America," said Anna, exhibiting a photograph of a dashing young man with a moustache, good looking with dark eyes, rather dark skin and black hair.

"My, he is attractive," said Pearl admiringly, as she handed the photograph to Anna.

"Are the nurses ready to go in the ambulance?" called an officer who conducted the young ladies to the station, as they were subject to a change of location any hour as the necessity warranted.

Ten nurses were told to go into the conveyance and off they went to their destination, which seemed to be about ten miles away. Here they alighted and it was just getting dark when off in the distance they could hear the big cannon roar and could see the newly arrived wounded on stretchers all over the hospital floor; that was the reason the ten nurses were sent over in such a hurry.

Anna and Pearl lost no time in getting ready for duty with the other nurses; the head officer assigned each one to her station. Anna was treating a French officer whose leg had been shot away by shell and the surgeon had amputated the fractured bone that had left its rough edges exposed. This wounded officer had just come out of the effect of the ether that was given him before the operation; he looked up inquiringly into Anna's face and did not at once fully realize the position he was in nor what had happened until a pain shot through his limb as he tried to move.

Then he realized his position but was content to wait quietly. He murmured some-

thing which Anna did not quite understand, she knew how to speak French, but the word had slipped her memory. Bending over him so she could catch the word, she heard him say:

"Letter," and raising his arms he indicated by his movements that in his inside vest pocket there was a paper that he wanted Anna to get.

"Can I look through the vest of this patient of mine?" Anna asked of the head nurse, who readily gave her permission after it had been located, for the patient had been given hospital attire suitable for a patient who would be in bed for quite a long period. Anna searched the inside pocket of his vest and sure enough it bore a message, but a strange one; Anna had some difficulty in translating it, but managed to do so after a long time. She could do this between the times she was not busy serving the other patients.

The contents of the letter this officer had received that morning just before he received his wound and he did not know just how serious his wound might prove to be; he was anxious to have Anna procure for him the address of his wife and two children. Then he requested Anna to read the letter to him and asked her to see that the authorities were given the new address his family had moved to, and also to drop his wife a line and

tell her he still lived and was thinking of her and his little ones.

"Yes, of course I will," she replied in English, as she found he understood quite well the English language; and that night she wrote to his home this note he dictated to her:

"Dear Wife:

"I am thinking of you and our two boys just now; it is hard for me to realize that I am in a hospital as only a little while ago I stood upon the battlefield and made a charge on the enemy, then, to my surprise, I found myself in the ward with others of my command, some of whom, I am thankful to say, will soon be able to go to the battle again, while I am suffering with an amputation of one leg. This will indeed be a hard blow to you, my dear, but the truth will have to come out some day, and what makes it worse, I will never be able to fight for France again. But bear up, dear one, I will be home as soon as the doctors think I am strong enough to bear the journey and with God's help and a new leg I will be able to earn a livelihood for our dear boys and your own patient self, who have stood the trial for such a long time, and now the climax has come, but you must be brave and not think of failure—keep up the spirit of courage and hope. Kiss the boys for me, and tell them, dear, father has fought his last battle, but only at the front. For I am a Frenchman and I can do much to help

others push forward and strive on to victory.
I send my love and kisses.

“Your loving husband,
“L. GAUTIER.”

“Thank you, nurse, and God bless you if you send this to the address in the letter,” he remarked.

“It shall go off by the next post,” said Anna, almost moved to tears by this sad condition.

“Pearl, what patients did you attend to-day?” asked Anna that night as they both were lying on their cots after a busy day, as there had been a battle nearby and many wounded had been brought in.

“I have twenty cases to look after, some with rifle wounds in the arm and leg, and some very serious cases. Two died while I attended them, as their cases were hopeless, but I attended to their last requests, and I sent off a note of love to their nearest relatives and told them how bravely they had stood the test. It makes my heart ache, but I am glad I came, for these wounded heroes—what would they do without us? We’ve saved many from blood poisoning by using the latest remedies that could be administered by the Red Cross nurses and attend their every wish as far as possible,” said Pearl.

“I wonder where my friend is at this moment?” asked Anna.

“I was just thinking of my Jack, too, dear

boy, hoping he will be able to escape the bullets that fly so thickly on the battlefield. One can't appreciate the danger that confronts everyone in the first line trenches from bombs, airplanes and bullets and bursting shells that keep one always on the alert for the attack."

"Don't you hear those guns now? They must be coming nearer. What if the enemy advances so we would have to move before morning; do you think there is any danger?" asked Pearl.

"Go to sleep now and when danger comes you will be awakened in time."

"Good night," said Anna.

"Good night," answered Pearl.

Quietness reigned, save when the patients were calling occasionally for the nurses on watch.

CHAPTER VI.

JACK WOUNDED ON THE BATTLEFIELD

"Jack Carlton, what are you doing here?" exclaimed an old friend who had met Jack on the pier as he was about to sail on a transport for France.

"Hello, Woodard, are you going to the front, too? Well, this is a pleasant surprise," responded Jack.

"Yes, I have my commission as a captain of one of the United States regiments in France. I received my orders in Texas. Just reached here last night and didn't have much time to go sight-seeing. My, but to see you reminds me of the good times we had at West Point together," said Henry Woodard, who was a bright young man of about thirty years, tall and medium dark complexion, with dark eyes and who wore a moustache. He was fully equipped and ready for immediate service as soon as he arrived on the soil of France.

Soon the ship's propellers were started on its long voyage that indicated the immediate departure of the transport that carried many hundreds of troops, trained to the minute, but who expected to receive finishing touches in France, as the trench warfare was somewhat different than the open fighting the

American troops had been accustomed to.

"Good bye, folks," called Jack, as he waved his handkerchief to his parents, who returned the farewell, and as long as Jack was in sight he could see them standing looking wistfully after the rapidly moving ship.

Many other fathers and mothers were there to send their blessings to their boys as they made their trip over the sea, and many would never return to see one another again. Such are the fortunes of war.

"Jack, come over to my bunk, if you are not located already, and it will be jolly to have you near; then we can talk over old times," said Henry good-naturedly.

"Soon as I get my baggage together I will see if I can arrange it, but save a place in the next bunk if you can," Jack replied.

Sandy Hook was passed and the armed convoy took up a position as soon as they were clear of the forts. Then night had settled down and the throb of the engines vibrated through the whole frame of the ship.

Jack was smoking a pipe contentedly and Henry was reading some mail he had received just as the distribution had been made. He had read a letter from his mother that made him rather quiet for a moment, but putting the letter in his grip again took on that jolly vein of humor that seemed to be part of his nature. He was a very likeable young man; would not do a mean trick to

anyone, and while he liked to joke and have a good time, yet he had always been his mother's pride, and the loving message he had just read made his lips quiver.

"So you volunteered," said Jack, settling down to be comfortable, while the rings of smoke from his pipe rolled upward.

"Yes, just a week after we declared war, I enlisted in the Regulars, to be made captain in due course of time, as my experience soon had the weight in promotion and I dare say I'll get another promotion just as soon as my regiment is complete and ready to go to the front," he replied.


"I'm in the same line as you are, only I think I'll have to do a little more instructing for the boys over in France, before I am finally settled as commander of a regiment," said Jack.

"Good boy, that's fine," said Henry.

"Married yet?" asked Jack.

"No, but I'm engaged. By the way, are you married?" asked Henry.

"Yes, only had a week's honeymoon before I was called. No exemption for me, but it was mighty hard luck for my wife to be so quickly disillusioned of the bliss that we two experienced for the short time. But she was resigned, and enlisted as a Red Cross nurse and from the last letter I got from her I believe she is now at the front in actual service at the base hospital. Dear girl, she was the prettiest young lady I ever met, and



the most affectionate, too, and I know that when the war is over, if both of us are alive, no second marriage will ever take place until the other one has passed beyond, for I am sure we will meet on the same footing as we parted on that day I last saw her. We both made that promise then," said Jack.

"My friend is a nurse, too, and she lived in a town near our camp in Texas. She must be in France by this time, for the day she sailed was a month ago. Wait, I'll show you her picture," said Henry, as he proceeded to get it for Jack's inspection.

"My, what a fine figure," said Jack admiringly.

"Glad you like her, as she is to be my wife some day after the war," said Henry.

"What do you think of this picture?" asked Jack, as he showed Henry the photograph of Pearl.

"Isn't she a beauty! My, Jack, you're lucky to fall heir to a girl like that. You can rest assured you will find no other like her for looks in a million," said Henry.

"You said something," Jack replied. He put the photograph on the most conspicuous place he could find in the crowded room and Henry did the same with the picture of his fiancée.

"Let's turn in and get a good night's sleep—I'm tired after the long trip on the cars to New York," said Henry.

"Good night," said Jack.

"Good night, and pleasant dreams," said Henry, as they both turned in and in a few moments were in slumberland, perhaps to be shown in their dreams the duties before them and possibly the good fortune of traveling in the Astral and visiting the loved ones out somewhere in France. Who knows what the kind Fates may give to the faithful and true?

The days passed quickly, soon France was reached and the boys were soon on the trains, riding to their destination to the training camp where the American forces were gathered in a location quite convenient for an emergency call in case any need of reinforcements should be called for.

"John Carlton," called out the voice of an orderly, who, upon receiving a recognition from Jack, came up and handed a note to him just as the train stopped at a French station which was the end of the journey.

"I'm in luck," exclaimed Jack.

"What's the news?" replied Henry.

"I'm to report at headquarters immediately," said Jack.

"I'll see you later and good luck to you," said Henry.

Jack sauntered off in the direction of General Headquarters and soon came to his destination and with a feeling of expectancy he entered, and after showing his credentials, was admitted to the General's room, after which he stepped forward to the officer in

charge and was immediately presented to his superior officer, whom he saluted, and was told to sit down.

"I have received your commission from Washington, Major Carlton, and you will be pleased to note your new title; you are to take up your duties immediately but your commission starts from last Thursday," said the General.

"This is a pleasant surprise, indeed, General, and I will be ready to report at once for active service," he replied, getting up, saluting and retiring.

"All aboard," called out the conductor of a train that carried the troops that Jack had command of some weeks after he had received his commission. It pulled away from the station and its increased speed soon carried it to its destination, some four hours afterwards. Alighting from the train Jack assembled his men together and cut out across the country, fully equipped for two days' march toward the enemy's lines that threatened to overwhelm the opposing forces. They fought courageously to hold the lines of communication and his battalion arrived just in time to drive back the enemy, but Jack manoeuvred to get his troops in a position that enabled him to give a most overwhelming defeat to the attacking party and drove them back, leaving many dead and wounded and some prisoners in his hands. Then Jack ordered the men to entrench and

hold the line, which they did with the vigor that only youth and energy can do.

The shell fire was terrific, but Jack and his men held on and were cheered by other defenders as they saw his brave men risking death, and many of them paid the price that day, but the wounded were taken away by the litter bearers.

Then very soon night fell and found that the boys had been able to hold the position.

"That was a close call," said Jack to a fellow officer, who had been looking out through a loophole towards the enemy, as a shell burst near them and a splinter embedded itself in the woodwork within a few inches of Jack's head.

"You will get used to that after you have been here for a month or more," replied the officer.

Machine guns kept up a rapid fire, as the newly arrived reinforcements were equal to the opposing forces, at least Jack thought so, and he made some effort to convert his fellow officers into the belief that an offensive was the best plan for his forces to take, early in the morning, just at daybreak; so it was planned to go over the top then. Jack had arranged all the details and a few moments before the order was given for a barrage so as to open the way for his men to go over the top immediately after and the thundering volley that preceded the order to charge was most deafening.

"Now, boys, be steady and brave; shoot low and go at them—CHARGE!" cried Jack, as he was the first one to rise over the edge of the trench and hundreds of young, hardened recruits mingled with the older men as they went flying toward the enemy. Shot and shell flew thick and fast on both sides; some brave lads went down before they advanced ten feet, but Jack urged the others on with his loud commands, being heard above the noise of battle as he raced along through wire and up to the first trench of the enemy, where some of the young men got there ahead of the others. Now they were fighting with bayonets and some with hand grenades and so surprised was the enemy by the sudden rush that they fled to the second trench, leaving dead and wounded behind. Many of the men under Jack's command were wounded and Jack was congratulating himself on his own escape when a shell exploded nearby and killed three of his men, who were a few feet away, and inflicting a severe wound in Jack's leg that brought him to his knees, but he still had the presence of mind to give the command to seek cover, as the enemy had found the range and was pouring a hot fire into his ranks. They kept the trench that they had won and soon dug a connecting one back to their own lines so they could take the wounded to the dressing station, then later to the hospital.

Jack was among those carried back and he

was not complaining of the pain that racked his body, for the wound, though not necessarily fatal, was very painful and had to be attended to as quickly as possible. All of the enemy wounded that were found were treated with the same care as their own and the dead were given the same funeral rites.

"Bring him in this door," said the head nurse to the stretcher bearers, as a wounded officer was brought in and placed on the operating table, and upon examination of the wound by the surgeon he decided to operate immediately to extract the metal that had penetrated the fleshy part of the leg.

"Go ahead, doctor, I can stand it," said Jack, as the operation was about to begin.

Jack was very cool and refused to take an anesthetic during the operation, which proved to be quite severe, but at last it was over; then Jack was put on a cot in care of a nurse, and to Jack's surprise and delight, there stood his own wife, ready to be his angel of mercy in his hour of great need.

What a blessing to have her here now.

"Pearl, dear, is that your own self, or am I dreaming?" asked Jack.

"Yes, Jack, it's I," she replied. "What a surprise to find you wounded and to be placed under my care. I am sorry, dear, you are hurt, but I'm thankful it is not serious. I'm to be your nurse! How strange things are brought about. You remember the night at the opera when we saw the duel scene,

dear? Then I had a premonition that I should be a nurse and here we are again in one another's arms," as she tenderly kissed him and hurried away to arrange for Jack's comfort and attention.

"Anna, this is my husband," said Pearl, as she introduced her fellow nurse to Jack, as she came over to see Pearl for a moment or two in the course of the morning, and had noticed the patient but did not suspect it was the husband of Pearl.

"Sorry you are wounded, Mr. Carlton, for Pearl has told me all about you, and I can recognize you from the picture she showed me," said Anna.

"Thank you—it's only a short stay in the hospital, I hope, then I'm out with the boys again to go at the enemy harder than ever," he replied.

"Hope my friend will not get hurt," said Anna.

"What's his name?" asked Jack.

"Henry Woodard, captain of the regulars, that is, he was the last I heard from him, when he was in Texas," she replied.

"He's in France, now!" Jack exclaimed.

"Have you met him?" anxiously inquired Anna.

"Yes, I met him some time ago at West Point Military Academy; he told me about you on the way over on the steamer," he replied.

"I would dearly love to see him," said Anna.

"Maybe you will, some day," he replied.

"Hope he will not be wounded, though, when I do," she said.

"Henry is a fine officer and I wish him luck," said Jack.

"Can I write him at the training camp?" asked Anna.

"I think so. You can send it by messenger next time the trip is made," he replied.

"I'll write tonight, after my duties are over," said Anna, going back to her patient and feeling cheerful at the prospect of hearing from her fiance soon.

Weeks passed, and still Jack stayed in the hospital, and day and night he was waited upon by his loving wife, and when the day came that he was discharged from the hospital he felt as he did the first time he had parted from Pearl, but now he had to go out to the front again; it was with a deeper love than ever for his wife; he would not take up his duties for a week yet, as he had to report to headquarters that afternoon.

"Dear, I want you to be brave and attend to your duties here as you have done so faithfully up to this moment, some day soon you will be thankful that you have taken the Red Cross work as a profession," said Jack, as he was about to leave.

"Be careful, Jack, and don't get hurt

again," she replied, kissing him and stroking his face with an affectionate touch.

"Mr. Carlton, will you tell Henry I am here at this station?" Anna asked as Jack was going to report.

"Certainly, with pleasure," he replied, as he took a note she had placed in his hand for her friend.

"Good bye," waved Jack fondly.

"Good bye," both waved after him.

Jack took the next conveyance back to headquarters and found he was to remain in camp for a week until he was quite strong enough to go to the front again.

"I received a note from your friend," Jack said to Henry, as he gave him the note from Anna.

"Thanks, Major," said Henry, as he read it with interest, this being one of many he had received from Anna since she had learned where he was stationed.

"I go to my command next week, Henry; don't you think I'm in luck?" questioned Jack.

"Better luck next time; hope you don't get hurt again. That was a close call you had. Anna informed me about it when she first wrote to me and I was interested to know just how you were getting along, so I kept writing to Anna and she told me. By the way, did she give you the little note I put in her letter for you?" exclaimed Henry.

"Oh, yes! I got it and was thankful to

receive it, as it cheered me wonderfully," replied Jack.

"My orders will come in two weeks; then I expect to take my troops to the front and hold the lines not far from where you got wounded," said Henry.

"I'm to take up my old command with the same battalion and I hope, with all my men whom I left behind. Has there been any trouble since I left?" asked Jack.

"Yes, one day last week an enemy airplane dropped four bombs in the vicinity of this camp, but fortunately no one was hurt, except on the outposts, where two of our men were wounded." he replied.

"Seems to me I would rather like to go up in one of the new type planes. Who is your friend standing over there with the goggles on?" asked Jack.

"I'll bring him over and introduce you to him. Wait a moment," said Henry. "Mr. McKrevy, allow me to introduce Major Carlton, who had the honor about a month ago of taking a front line trench from the enemy, also a piece of shrapnel in his leg was included in the bargain."

"Glad to meet you," responded the aviator.

"Have any luck lately with the enemy?" asked Jack.

"I need one more to become an Ace," replied McKrevy.

"You are to be congratulated in being able to bring down four machines," said Jack.

"The last one I had to manoeuvre quite a good deal before I had a chance to get him. We were 'way up, I should say twelve thousand feet, when I sighted my opponent coming for me at full speed. I got my quick firer ready and turned within three hundred yards and began blazing away point blank at him; then up I went to get above, and as I circled to the left I managed to get behind him, and there's where I had my luck. I brought him down with the tank all ablaze and his machine fell within our lines, but lucky for him he had the presence of mind to jump just as a bullet penetrated the tank and, the only time in my life I had ever seen a parachute used in an airplane, he floated gracefully to earth; but the machine was a wreck. Our men captured the aviator and he was mighty glad to be alive," said Joe, for that was Mr. McKrevy's name.

"Do you ever feel afraid, traveling so high?" asked Jack.

"At first I was rather timid, but now I am quite over that and don't think anything about going up eighteen thousand feet," he replied.

"Suppose your engine should stop working? Then what would you do?" questioned Jack.

"Then I would glide to the earth, but it is mighty risky, I tell you. I remember once

my engine stopped dead as I was in a race after the enemy and it was first he and next I that was blazing at one another, that you would have thought it was a rough and tumble, for I was up and he after me, and down I came to turn to catch him, when my engine stopped just as I was getting a good position to down him; then I almost lost control of the machine as it was in a peculiar position, half turned over to make the swing to the left I was trying to make when it happened, but I finally righted it and by the time I got the engine going again I had reached within one thousand feet of the ground; but I was lucky that time—you might call it luck—I'm thankful to say," said Joe.

"When are you going to take another fly?" asked Henry, becoming interested.

"I'm waiting for orders—maybe in a few minutes," Joe replied.

"Can we see your machine?" asked Jack.

"Come over to the hangar and I will show you one of the finest machines that ever floated on air," he replied.

All three walked over to the hangar, which was close by, and with the assistance of Joe and getting permission from the officer in charge, Jack was given his first instructions in flying, but only in a general way, as he listened to Joe and saw how he manipulated the levers.

"Will you take me up with you on your next trip?" asked Jack.

"I'll ask the Major; then if he is willing, I certainly am," Joe replied.

"I'm acquainted with him; perhaps it would be well for me to ask," remarked Jack, as he went to see the Major.

"You may go, as the conditions are good just now, and tell Joe to give you his other suit and goggles," responded the Major.

"Thank you," Jack replied.

"Keep cool, and you won't have any trouble—for Joe is a good aviator—the best in the camp"—said the Major.

"I'll be careful," replied Jack as he thanked the Major.

"It's all right, Joe," said Jack, coming back to the machine, and he was soon ready to make the trip.

"I'll examine the machine thoroughly before we go up," replied Joe.

"That's right, don't let anything happen while I'm in it," Jack retorted.

"I take the same chances," replied Joe, as he got into the machine and started the propeller by a new device while seated—and away they skipped over the ground and gradually ascended to a height that made Jack feel a little bit afraid for the moment, but he soon steadied himself and got his second wind, as you may call it, for the panorama spread out below him was something he had never dreamed of, yet here he was almost over the front line trenches of the enemy and he could see the zigzag formation for miles,

just as if a great earthquake had made the deep crevices and had left them in that state, there was only a short distance that separated the enemy from their own trenches.

Jack could see off in the distance clouds of dust at several points back of the enemy's lines; probably they were bringing up reinforcements for a new offensive that might begin before he was ordered in service again, but that did not worry him any as he had gotten over his nervousness since he had made that charge—and now he was to have another chance. This was what he wanted and he would try and gain strength the next few days to meet the duties ahead of him.

"Do you want to see any more of the enemy's lines?" asked Joe, as he shot the machine upward several thousand more feet, which by this time had reached about fifteen thousand feet and was headed straight over the enemy's lines.

"Go ahead, I'll keep watch for the enemy's planes," replied Jack, getting interested in the trip and the possibility of having an encounter with the enemy.

"Can you operate the machine gun?" asked Joe, anxiously.

"I took a special course of instruction in that branch and can give a good account of myself," he replied, as he took off the rain-proof cover that concealed the weapon and proceeded to see if everything was all right and ready for use.

"You may use it if we sight an enemy," said Joe.

"I see you have a machine gun handy, too," said Jack.

"That's the gun I brought down the four airplanes with. Now I see two machines coming toward us!" exclaimed Joe.

"I saw them myself. Wonder if we had better get back over our lines and let them follow us; then we would have a better chance if anything happened to the engine," replied Jack.

"Perhaps it would be better," said Joe, as he turned to go back as he observed the enemy was hot after him and would soon be near enough to open fire. It was a race to the front, and as Joe neared that section he turned and circled around so he could get his bearings and in a few moments he heard the whistle of bullets quite close. Jack had already opened fire, so he manoeuvred so that he would not be caught, as the odds were two to one against him; the enemy was giving signals to his fellow flier to get in from behind Joe, but it was no easy matter as all three machines were working for the same position. Suddenly one of the aviators was seen to throw up his hands and down he went with the machine out of control and it looked as if Joe would get his fifth enemy. But he had no time to watch the descent as the other machine came straight at him like a battering ram. Joe turned quickly and both guns

in Joe's machine blazed away point blank at the machine straight ahead, which seemed to check the enemy, but he opened fire and got in a few shots. One of them hit Joe in the arm, which brought forth a cry for Jack's help at the steering gear; so he crawled over to where Joe was seated and took the levers under the command of Joe, who told him what to do, and with Joe's left hand operating the gun he managed to keep off the enemy and gradually descended to the earth, fighting all the way, for the enemy had observed the discomfiture of his opponent—but he did not score a victory, and he did not come any closer as the land batteries got in their work and held him off. He flew back to his lines and Jack observed several of his machines in close pursuit.

By carefully managing the machine with Joe's left hand and Jack helping him as much as possible, they landed safely, Joe was gratified to learn he had brought down his fifth plane, and now he was an Ace.

"Wonderful experience," said Jack, as he helped Joe out of the machine, and then the first opportunity was given to examine Joe's wound. It was found to be an extremely painful one in the right forearm in the fleshy part between the wrist and the elbow. It bled profusely and Jack made a tourniquet of his handkerchief so the flow of blood was stopped.

"Not very serious," remarked Joe.

"No, you were lucky to come out so well," replied Jack.

"Did you enjoy the trip?" asked Joe.

"Wouldn't have missed it for anything," he replied. "I wonder how the aviator is doing. They say he is still unconscious and may recover; hope so, don't you?"

"Yes, he is our prisoner, but he will get the best of treatment," replied Joe.

"You had better report to the dressing station and have your arm attended to," remarked Jack.

"I'll go right away, as one don't know what infection might take place unless properly looked after and antiseptics and bandages applied," replied Joe as though nothing had happened.

"You will have to be careful for a few days; you had better rest up in the hospital and get proper treatment," said the doctor.

"Major, will you write a letter to my mother for me?" asked Joe.

"Certainly, right away," responded Jack.

"You won't mind if I dictate the letter to you?" asked Joe.

"No, go ahead," he replied.

"Dear Mother: You will be surprised to learn I am an Ace, having shot down my fifth plane today, and Major Carlton, my friend, was with me when we had the engagement. It was through his coolness that we managed to get back safely with our lives, but I received a wound in my right arm that will

keep me in the hospital for some days. Wish you were here as my nurse, as he was so fortunate last week to have his wife nurse him, she is a nurse at the front; but you are very busy doing all you can to help our wounded by making bandages for them. Keep it up, dear, and some day I'll come back to you when this war is over. Lovingly yours,—Joe."

"I'm going to send word to my wife," said Jack, as he hastily penned a few words of encouragement and affection to one he loved and hoped soon to see.

As Jack sealed the letter, Joe remarked: "Give the letters to the aviator who is going over this afternoon."

"If that is the case, why can't I go with him too?" asked Jack.

"Ask the Major and see," replied Joe.

Jack went immediately and got permission and returned. "It's all arranged for me to go," said he, tearing up the letter he had written to Pearl, as he expected to be able to see her himself.

"Good bye, Major, and be careful," said Joe as Jack left the hospital for the hangar, to meet Dick Finley, a trusted aviator who had been introduced to Jack when he got permission to go over to the hospital where Pearl was located.

"Hope we won't have any trouble," said Dick, as they both were seated, ready to start.

"Well, if we do, we'll be ready," replied Jack.

In a short time the hospital was reached and Dick made a landing close by.

"Come over and I'll introduce you to my wife," said Jack.

"Wait till I see if everything is all right," replied Dick. Examining the tank, he finally went with Jack.

"The enemy seems to be firing the heavy guns today," said Jack as he happened to see in the distance the effect of a big shell as it sent the earth up to a great height and a cloud of dust floated away. This same distance to the right another shell exploded. Jack thought it was rather near the hospital and wondered if during the day a shell or two might go the distance that intervened from the spot where the last shell dropped.

"The enemy's fire is getting quite near," said Dick, as they neared the hospital.

"Don't say anything to the nurses about it, as they might be over-anxious if they knew, but I daresay they can hear the explosions and judge matters for themselves," replied Jack.

"Hello, dear," exclaimed Jack, as he had obtained permission to see Pearl for a few moments.

"What a surprise to see you here, Jack," replied Pearl.

"I want you to meet Dick Finley, the avia-

tor who brought me over from the camp," said Jack, as he introduced him.

"Glad to meet you," replied Pearl. Come in and see the head nurse. She was asking about you, Jack."

"So Anna is still here," said Jack, as they entered the hospital.

"Yes, but she will be assigned to another field next week," replied Pearl.

"Hello, Jack. How is my friend Henry getting along, and is he still in camp?" asked Anna.

"Yes, but he has his orders now to go to the front day after tomorrow. I hear you are to be shifted to a new location," replied Jack.

"Yes, I do hope Pearl can go along, but I'm afraid she can't, as only five of the nurses are to go," said Anna.

"I'll tell Henry I saw you and take back any note you may wish to send," said Jack, as he turned to greet the head nurse.

"You are looking fine," said she.

"Thanks. I'm feeling much better and by next week will be able to take up my command again," replied Jack.

"Any news from the front?" asked she.

"Only you might expect a battle soon in this direction, as the enemy is gathering his forces to make a drive," said Jack.

"Hope our boys will be able to meet them and hold their ground," she replied anxious-

ly, as the bursting of shell of extra large calibre could be plainly heard.

"Well, I'll have to be going back to camp, but I want a few words with Pearl, if you'll excuse her," said Jack.

"Certainly, I'll wait on her patients in the meantime," she replied.

"Thanks," said Jack.

"Dear, I have such a sad feeling today," she said, as she fondly caressed him.

"Come, Pearl, don't give way to your feelings," said Jack tenderly.

"But I had a dream last night that has been troubling me all morning," she replied.

"What was it about?" asked Jack.

"I thought this hospital was struck by a big shell and everything was sent flying into the air together with the wounded and myself. I was not seriously hurt but received a fracture of the arm and was badly bruised all over," she replied.

"Do you want to ask for a furlough?" asked Jack.

"How can I, Jack, when there are scarcely enough nurses to handle the cases here now. No, dear, I can't leave the poor sufferers who are so patient that it seems as though my heart would bleed for them with sympathy; sometimes I feel their pain; as you know my psychic nature takes on their condition, and it is a hard matter to throw off their effects. But I can tell usually what is the matter with one through this gift of mine. You know how we used to read one another's thoughts,

Jack, when you and I first met," remarked Pearl.

"Yes, and I know your dreams are more than ordinary dreams. For what you have told me, I would advise them to move back out of danger, but who will pay any attention to you if you tell them about your dream of last night," he replied.

"Do be careful, dear, and come over and see me as often as you can," said Pearl, as Jack took leave of her, kissing her as he did many times before, for the lovelight still burned in both young hearts.

This new experience for them had brought out their better natures and welded their lives together as no other experience could have done.

"Good bye, Jack," said Anna.

"Good bye, all," as he waved his hand and walked with Dick to the airplane.

"We'd better be getting back before it rains, for I think a storm is brewing," said Jack.

"It will hold off for some time yet, I think," replied Dick.

"I'm ready," said Jack, as Dick started the propeller, and they soon got under way, and were fortunate enough to reach camp just as the first gust of wind shook the machine as Dick put it in the hangar and went to report to his superior officer.

"Thank you for the ride," said Jack.

"You're welcome. I had to go over to the hospital anyway," replied Dick.

CHAPTER VII.

PEARL RETURNS HOME WOUNDED

"Henry, I hear you are going to the front today," said Jack.

"Yes, I am lucky to be called so soon. I am off this noontime and I am anxious to try out my men and will be glad when we get into the battle, as I have often pictured to myself; since the day I left West Point I have always wanted to be just where I find myself in the position I have today.

"May you realize your hopes," replied Jack, shaking hands with him as he took his command and started on a one day's march cross country to the enemy's lines.

The boys were a fine lot and from all parts of the United States, strong and rugged, after the training they got in this camp. It took off the superfluous flesh and left bone and muscle in its place and fitted them for the trench warfare they would have to endure. Some would have to stand out in the cold winter's air, with snow pelting them in the face and no fire to keep them warm; but what of that, they did not mind that so long as they saw action, and you will find this spirit in all the American troops, full of life—sometimes it is hard to hold them back but patience is a virtue in time of war and

when the time comes to go over the top you will find these boys always ready to obey. This is the spirit that wins and will be made manifest in the war waged from year to year—a gigantic struggle going on over a front of some hundreds of miles.

In due time Jack was ordered to report for active duty at the front again and bidding adieu to all his fellow officers he was glad to be able to report again, in charge of his old battalion. Not much change had taken place since he was wounded, but his troops were still occupying the enemy's trench that it had nearly cost Jack his life to win.


"Looks as if we were going to be engaged soon," remarked Jack to his superior officer, who had come to the trench to see if anything could be done to improve conditions.

"Guard well the left wing, for I have report that you may expect an attack there," he replied.

"It shall be attended to," said Jack, saluting. Then he saw his superior officer leave.

"Boys, tonight we are to give the enemy a surprise, and if you will be ready when the order is given for a barrage at 6 P. M., then we will rush over for another advance; otherwise we may have to fall back to the trench behind."

Action was imminent on the part of the enemy and at the set time a curtain of fire was thrown over a vast space and at Jack's command "CHARGE!" over the top they



scrambled, down a slight depression and up on the other side they rushed, with machine gun crew doing noble work to prevent the enemy from advancing; it was a surprise action as the enemy did not anticipate this movement, and while it lasted it was real—every minute some of Jack's men dropped here and there, but the rest kept on and finally through a desperate effort they obtained a footing on one portion of the enemy's trench, and tumbling in they met the enemy with bayonets; those who were stubbornly resisting, but eventually the enemy had to give up the second trench. Through sheer grit, the fighting spirit of our boys had reached its height, and now Jack had found himself in full possession of the coveted trench and only after one hundred and five of his men had either been wounded or killed. But victory was to be won only by going ahead, and he who could go ahead and reach the goal first—to him would the spoils of war be given.

"Men, you deserve honorable mention, and I'll see you get it, for I am proud of you, the way you have held together and attained your objective; but tonight we will have to be on extra guard against a counter attack which I feel will be thrown against us, but each will do his duty and hold fast to what we have; we will teach the enemy a lesson that they will remember. Possession is ours

and for them to win it back it would be over our dead bodies," said Jack.

"We are with you to the end," they all cried, which gave Jack the courage to plan the defense of this trench.

"Here they come!" one of the guard called out, as the rush of the enemy was heard, as they swept over the top of their trench and our machine guns began to have telling effect on the wave of men, who went down before the curtain of fire. They rallied for a minute and then on again they started for their opponents, but they could not seem to keep together as the awful fire of Jack's men was mowing them down until they reached the top of the trench that Jack commanded. Here was the supreme moment, when with one mighty shout our boys opened up and let them have it. They recoiled in the face of the withering fire, and turned and sought shelter as best they could; some had actually gotten into the trenches and surrendered; seeing their companions fall back they had not the courage to keep up the fighting against such odds. Jack sent the prisoners and the wounded back to be cared for, and the dead, he had the usual burial for those brave men who held the trench against such odds; he also had the wounded and the dead of the enemy brought in as soon as possible, and it was some hours afterward when he had time to observe that the enemy were firing the heavy guns in the direction of the

hospital where Pearl was so actively engaged in caring for the wounded; and he also observed that the shells were gradually bursting with more frequency; his heart went thumping as he saw, to his dismay, one shell burst close to where he judged its location to be about where it dropped. He could not see the hospital from where he held the trench.

One hour afterward he heard the news from the motor squad that the hospital had been struck, but did not know that Pearl had been injured. He prayed she was safe, and as he hurried up to the headquarters staff, he soon learned that one part of the hospital had been struck by a shell and three nurses were killed and seven others injured. Among these latter was the name of Pearl Carlton, severely wounded, with a broken arm and cuts on leg and badly shaken up. Four of the patients were killed outright and six were more or less wounded, besides the original injury that sent them to the hospital. The right side of the building was a wreck, and it was to be hoped that the enemy did not do this act with deliberate aim, but that a chance shot sent out to the rear hit this building with such a disastrous effect.

Most of the wounded were sent to another hospital after getting first aid treatment from the nurses who had escaped injury, and with three ambulances they soon left for a drive of five miles further to the rear to be

cared for at a larger hospital which, Jack learned, had been erected to meet just such an emergency. Now he was anxious to see his wife, and, if possible, to see if she was any more seriously hurt than the reports stated. But the enemy was so bothersome that Jack could find no time until the next day, when he was relieved for a short rest; he rode back with the wounded that were being taken back to this institution and he soon saw her, after gaining permission to go to the ward.

"She is resting easily," said the nurse to Jack quietly.

"Thank God for that; can I speak to her?" he inquired thoughtfully.

"Yes, she is not seriously wounded and it will do no harm to speak to her," she replied, as she left him at the bedside of his wife.

"Dear, I'm sorry," he said, as he looked into the face of his loved one.

"Jack, I'm so glad you came," Pearl replied affectionately.

"So your dream came true," said he.

"Yes, just as I saw it in my dream," she replied resignedly.

"Do you suffer much pain, dear?" Jack inquired.

"Not when I'm quiet, but if I move, my arm pains me some, as it is broken just below the shoulder," she replied, and the splints were evidence of the break.

"I am glad it was no worse and your head escaped injury, so your beauty will be more radiant than ever," he said proudly.

"I was fortunate," replied Pearl.

"How did Anna fare?" Jack inquired.

"She had just answered the call in another part of the building when the shell struck our quarter. That is the only thing that saved her from injury, and she is still there at that institution, or what is left of it. I suppose the new patients will be transferred to this institution or some place further back to the rear," she replied.

"I'll come to see you as often as I can, as the enemy has been rather bothersome lately," said Jack, not caring to tell her any more about it just then.

"I suppose I'll be sent back to America after two weeks, the head nurse told me they intend doing so, as it will be two months before I can use my arm again; even then it will not be strong enough to serve as a nurse, so you see, Jack, I'm booked for a trip to Riverside Drive, for there I can rest up. Suppose our own home is rented by this time but if it is not maybe we could resume our honeymoon, dear; wouldn't that be romantic?" said Pearl.

"Quite some time off for me, the way things look now," he replied.

"Oh, I would not for the world think of you coming back, Jack, until you were honorably discharged," said Pearl.

"I will see you before you leave for the States," said Jack, as he prepared to leave.


"Good bye, dear, and let my brave husband be strong and courageous," said Pearl.

"Good bye," said Jack, kissing her, and then he departed.

"Going back to the lines?" inquired Jack.

"In three minutes' time I'll be on the move," said the chauffeur.

Jack arrived in due time and it was with a feeling of thoughtful and silent sympathy for the dear one who was suffering from a wound inflicted by the enemy; whether intentional or not it was Jack's only desire to go right after the enemy; he had no other thought, and now as he took charge of his troops again it was to see them fighting with patriotic zeal this trench warfare, until the day he bid his wife good bye at the hospital. She was able to walk to the ambulance that took her, with several others, to the railroad station; then they boarded a train that carried them direct to the Channel port. Here they embarked on a transport that was returning to the United States and after an uneventful trip we find her standing at the rail of the steamer with a girl companion who had become attached to her, who was standing by her side, eagerly scanning the faces of those who were to meet some friend or relation on board. At last Pearl saw Jack's father waiting patiently and he saw her at the same time; so she was contented



to wait a few minutes until he reached her side.

"So you've come back a heroine," said he, embracing her and acknowledging the introduction to her friend, and taking her tenderly by the well arm he led her down the steps to his automobile just off the pier. Placing Pearl's lady friend by the side of the chauffeur he sat down beside Pearl and told the chauffeur to drive directly home.

Pearl had to go over the whole story several times before Jack's father consented to let her rest, and after inviting Jane Cowell, Pearl's friend, to stay for a few days' visit, she retired to her room and took her friend with her.

Mrs. Carlton was very attentive to Pearl and showed a deep sympathy for her in her trouble, which proved a pleasant surprise.

"Dear, when Jack comes back you and he can go to the apartment again," she said.

"That's glorious news," she replied, as she thought how pleasant it was to go back, as she had felt so much at home there in the short time she had occupied the apartment on West End Avenue.

"I want you to see it, Jane," said Pearl. "It's only three blocks from here."

"We will go over tomorrow," she replied.

"My, how I do love flowers," said Pearl, examining the pretty vases that had been brought to her room as a slight token of love from her father-in-law. "I don't suppose

I'll go over to France again for some time," she continued.

"You can do a great work here in America by working for the Red Cross," replied Jane.

"Yes, I have many friends who are doing wonderful work, day by day," said Pearl.

"I'll help, too, soon as I get settled. I did not tell any of my friends just when I'd get back, so that was the reason I had no one to meet me," she replied.

"You can stay here as long as you care to," said Pearl.

"It's awfully kind of you," she replied.

"Tomorrow we will take a ride in Central Park, this July weather is most pleasant," said Pearl, looking out of the window.

"Dear, will you phone to the War Department branch office in the city and tell them I will report personally tomorrow?"

"Certainly," she replied, looking up the number in the phone book and calling up the authorities. She soon found the message was received by the proper authorities and was told to go to a certain office, where she would be given further instructions how to proceed.

"You have been a brave girl and deserve a great deal of credit for your pluck and patriotism," said Jane.

"Any true American would do the same as I have done. While they can't all be nurses, yet they can all do something, by being

loyal and true to the cause of democracy," replied Pearl.

"Let me put you to bed," said Jane.

"I'm 'most helpless and have to use the greatest care not to jar my arm and if you don't mind you may proceed to get me ready to retire, as you did so much for me on board the steamer, and if it wasn't for you, dear, I don't know how I could have traveled. The nurse in charge of our little band of afflicted women was more than kind, but you have been different from the rest, and I will never forget it," replied Pearl.

"It pleases me, so you ought to be perfectly satisfied for the little attention that I can give," said Jane.

"I am. And now will you get me an evening paper before you undress. I want to see how the war is going on, as it has been almost two weeks since I looked at any war news," remarked Pearl.

"I'll go out and get the latest edition," said Jane.

"You will have to go two blocks away before you find a store; you won't get lost—remember the number and house," said Pearl.

"I'll come right back," she replied.

"I wonder where I can get an evening paper," asked Jane of a man who was walking in the direction of a business street two blocks ahead.

"I'm going in that direction; I'll show you where you can buy one," he replied.

"Thank you, I'm a perfect stranger here in the city," she said.

"There is a place you can buy one," he said, as he pointed to a stationery store.

"Thank you," she replied.

"Buying the latest edition of one of the leading daily papers she tucked it under her arm and went out of the store; she was bewildered somewhat but went down the side street and finally reached Pearl's house. After ringing the bell she was soon in her friend's room again.

"Dear, let me glance at the headings. You will have to read it to me; you won't mind, will you?" asked Pearl.

"Not at all," she replied.

"The enemy has made some great gains since I came home from the front. I see the locality where the offensive was made is not far from where Jack held a small part of the front," said Pearl.

"Hope he was not forced to retreat," replied Jane.

"If he was it was because he was outnumbered, for I know Jack and he is like all the other Allies, brave and courageous, who only fall back when it is utterly impossible to stand before those massed waves of the enemy. But when it comes time for our boys to go over the top they are true blue every time," said Pearl with enthusiasm.

"I suppose you have good reason to know,

judging from the many wounded you have nursed," replied Jane.

"Yes, a war nurse can tell those who are the most patient and brave," said Pearl, as she retired.

"Let the light burn dimly, for I may call you, and tomorrow I will have my doctor see if my bandages are on all right," said Pearl.

"Good night, dear, I'll be right by your side and if I'm asleep when you need me, just wake me up," said Jane.

"I will," responded Pearl, "good night."

Eight o'clock struck on the gong of the old clock which stood in the dining room downstairs. This was the first sound that greeted the ears of Pearl as she opened her eyes after a very good night's sleep. She touched the form of her friend Jane with her free hand and was pleased to hear her say,—“My, how I slept. No rocking boat under me—makes a big difference.”

"Now your task begins," said Pearl.

"I'm willing and that gladly," she replied as she hurriedly dressed and then prepared to dress Pearl.

Soon we find them at the breakfast table and the four very earnest souls are here in the same general attitude of anxious inquiry as to when the war will be over. The morning papers didn't seem to give much light on an early settlement or victory.

"May I use the car, father?" asked Pearl.

"Certainly. I'll order George to bring

the car around in a few minutes and keep it out as long as you like. Mother, do you want to go along with Pearl?" asked he.

"Will it be all right, dear?" questioned mother.

"Yes, indeed; so good of you to come," she replied, "for I am quite helpless. First we will go to our doctor, then to the office where I will have to report to the proper authorities of my arrival, and then a drive through Central Park; then I want to take Jane to see our new home. By the way, is Hilda still there?" asked Pearl.

"Yes, she is still there, as I had a feeling we would somehow use the apartment and I kept it just as you and Jack left it, and Hilda has been keeping the apartment clean ever since."

"How romantic," said Jane.

"It is a perfect romance. Now all that is missing is my Romeo and a two-armed Juliet. Thanks to the gods I still retain my two arms," said Pearl.

"Come up to the house every morning about ten o'clock, doctor, won't you?" asked Pearl of Dr. Washburn, who had known her since she was born.

"I'll be on hand," said he as they left.

Then they motored to the office of the medical staff where Pearl reported and got her discharge from duty as a nurse, then she, with the other two, took a trip to the wonder-

ful park so centrally located in the very heart of the city.

After spending some time in admiring its beautiful scenery they went to the home on West End Avenue and found Hilda, who opened the door.

"Well, is it your own self that has come back alive, thank God for the sight of your own sweet face," said Hilda, as she helped her to a seat in the parlor.

"Thank you, Hilda. Sit down, Jane, and in a minute Hilda will show you around," said Pearl.

"This was my home for many years," said Mrs. Carlton, "but I let the children have it, just as I left it.

"How noble of you to do it," replied Jane.

"Jack and I are going to pay her back some day," said Pearl.

"I have been paid back many times by the devotion of my dear husband," said Mrs. Carlton.

"Hilda, will you serve tea to the ladies?" asked Pearl.

"I will make it right away," said Hilda, as she went to the kitchen to brew some immediately.

"I think New York is a wonderful city," said Jane.

"Is this the first time you were here?" asked Pearl.

"Only once before, for a day, when I took the trip to Europe; my home is in Columbus,

Ohio; I have a mother living and she and I are the only occupants of a house of six rooms. My mother has been visiting her sister while I traveled in Europe. Now in a day or two I will be going West to see her and I want you both to come and see me. It is a country home just on the outskirts of the city and it has a delightful view. You would like it very much. Won't you both come?" asked Jane.

"Maybe some time later in the summer when Pearl is free with her arm; then we can tell how we will spend the summer as we usually go to Newport in the hot months; it has been such an unusual season that the heat has not driven us out yet, but we may go the last of the month," replied Mrs. Carlton.

"Keep the apartment well cared for, Hilda, in our absence," said Pearl.

"That I will, ma'am," said Hilda.

"Let's go home," suggested Pearl, as they arose.

"You certainly have a delightful apartment," said Jane, as they drove home.

"Let's sit out on the benches for a while on the Drive," suggested Pearl, as they alighted in front of the house.

"Take the automobile to the garage and at 4.30 go for Mr. Carlton," said Mrs. Carlton.

"Yes, ma'am," replied George.

Under the green trees of the Drive sat all

three and enjoyed the cool summer air which came over the river in gentle breezes. This is what makes the thoroughfare a delightful spot on a summer afternoon.

"Senator Griffen and his family just went by in his automobile," said Mrs. Carlton.

"Jack is intimately acquainted with the Senator," replied Pearl.

"They live near the Thompson's on West 72nd Street, I believe," said Mrs. Carlton.

"Their daughter married one of the wealthiest men in Cleveland, Ohio," replied Pearl.

"What was his name?" asked Jane.

"James Grayson, a mine owner," she replied.

"He is well known all over the State of Ohio and elsewhere, but he was a widower the last time I heard of him," said Jane.

"He only married Eleanor Griffen last March," replied Pearl.

"She must be about fifteen years younger than he is," said Mrs. Carlton.

"Yes, I believe she was the Senator's eldest daughter," said Pearl.

"Jack was very attentive to Margaret, the next oldest, some years ago, so I learned from Mr. Carlton, who has had a watchful eye on Jack ever since he was out of knickerbockers," said Mrs. Carlton.

"How long have you known Jack?" asked Pearl.

"Seven years or more, when he was quite

a young man he often called with his friend, Tom Baldwin, who was a companion of Jack's," replied Mrs. Carlton.

"Is that the Baldwin who married Isabel Hoover five years ago?" asked Pearl.

"Yes, the very same, and I believe they have two children and I heard they went to Palm Beach last winter. He is a devoted husband, so they tell me," replied Mrs. Carlton.

"If I ever have any children I want them to be like Jack, if they are boys," said Pearl.

"And as pretty as their mother, if they are girls," replied Mrs. Carlton, smilingly.

"My, what compliments. I suppose I'll have to have my say," said Jane.

"Well, you may," replied Mrs. Carlton.

"I think, Mrs. Carlton, your husband has the most amiable disposition of any man I ever met," said Jane.

"You are speaking the truth," replied Mrs. Carlton.


"What a magnificent view of the river you get from the Drive," said Jane, turning around to observe the view.

"It is very fine," replied Pearl.

"Girls, are you ready to go in and get into cooler wearing apparel?" asked Mrs. Carlton.

"Yes, let's go; I'm quite warm," replied Pearl.

"When do you take the splints off your arm?" asked Jane.



"In about two more weeks," responded Pearl.

"Perhaps I'd better go on to Columbus as my mother is not in the best of health and the last letter I got was not very reassuring," said Jane.

"Don't hurry on our account," said Mrs. Carlton.

"You have been more than kind," replied Jane.

"I'll phone down to father and have him bring up the time table tonight," said Pearl.

"That would be a great help," replied Jane.

"A cold bath on a day like this is a pleasure," said Mrs. Carlton, emerging from the bathroom in her bathrobe and throwing herself on the bed, she relaxed, and soon went to sleep, while Pearl and Jane went into the next room to talk over their trip abroad.

"I want you to visit me again when I am in my new home with Jack," said Pearl, as she saw Jane off at the station the next day.

"Thank you ever so much, and I want you and your mother to visit me in Columbus some time," responded Jane.

"We may surprise you," replied Pearl.

"Good bye, both of you," said Jane, as she kissed Mrs. Carlton and Pearl.

"Good bye," both responded, as the train pulled out.

"What an amiable woman Jane is," said Mrs. Carlton, as they drove homeward.

"Doctor, I almost forgot you would be here this morning," said Pearl, as she hurriedly proceeded to receive her daily treatment.

"Your arm is getting along nicely, and you must take exercise, getting out into the air and letting the blood circulate so as to give the bone a chance to knit properly."

"I'm doing so, Doctor," she replied.

"I would advise that you walk about every day," said he.

"Are you going to be called to the colors, Doctor?" asked Pearl.

"I have been asked to fill out a registration card and I have been thinking very seriously of volunteering my services," replied Dr. Washburn.

"There are none too many in the field now," said Pearl.

"Yes, I realize the necessity of our medical men getting together and seeing if we can't arrange some plan whereby our patients at home here can be accommodated and if possible to release some of the doctors for field work. We have talked it over at our last convention and I think good results will come of such a union. But we can't desert our own field at home, that is certain, but if I am called I will go readily enough," said the doctor.

"How noble of you," Pearl replied.

"The papers state today that our boys are on a wider front now and we may soon hear

of their operations together with our Allies," said the Doctor.

"I received a letter from my husband this morning," said Pearl, "and he says the boys are behaving like true Americans and holding on like bulldogs," said Pearl.

"The papers said this morning that our New York boys were among the first to get into the thick of the offensive that the enemy had delivered yesterday."

"Hope Jack is all right," replied Pearl.

"Even the engineers, who do not as a rule enter the battle, turned in and, throwing down their instruments, took up guns and helped turn the tide of retreat to such an extent that much can be said in their favor. Some lost their lives in the mad rush to stop the waves of infantry that the enemy sent against our Allies," said the doctor.

"It makes me want to go back again to the aid of the wounded when I hear of so many falling in battle," said Pearl.

"Your mother can care for you, now your friend has gone away," said the doctor.

"Yes, mother will attend to me, together with a little help from our maid," replied Pearl, as the doctor departed.

CHAPTER VIII.

JACK INVALIDED HOME

Three months afterward, Pearl had gone to her room when a rap came on her door.

"Telegram, ma'am," said Sarah, the maid, as she handed it to Pearl.

"It must be from Jack," said Pearl nervously, as she opened the envelope.

"Major John Carlton, severely wounded, is in hospital in France; will be sent to United States as soon as he is able to make the trip," read the telegram, signed by a government official.

"Dear boy, he is surely paying the price," said Pearl, as she took the telegram to her mother and tried hard to bear up, yet thankful that he was still alive and the prospect of his coming back to recuperate in the United States made her feel less downhearted and now she would be patient until Jack's message or a letter would come to explain the details more fully.

"When he comes back we will have him come directly to your own apartment, if we can arrange it with the authorities," said Mrs. Carlton.

"Perhaps the officials will give us more information if we write to Washington today and see if we can't get the desired permis-

sion when Jack comes," replied Pearl.

"You can attend to it after Mr. Carlton comes home tonight, and ask his advice in the matter," said Mrs. Carlton.

The letter was written and in due course of time Pearl received the assurance that Jack could be treated at his own home, provided a suitable arrangement could be made as to the nurse.

"I will nurse Jack," said Pearl, and she wrote back word to that effect.

The arrival of Jack some weeks later was announced in due course by a telegram to Pearl, stating that if she had an automobile at a certain pier she could take her husband to his home on West End Avenue.

"I'll go along with you and mother," said Mr. Carlton, addressing Pearl, as the automobile was ready and waiting to take them to their destination.

"There is Jack, standing at the rail," said Pearl to her mother.

"My, how pale he looks," said the mother.

"Hello, dear," called Jack, as he caught sight of Pearl.

They made their way to where Jack was standing, in company with many other wounded soldiers and officers who were waiting to be placed in the hospital here or taken to their homes; some were lying on stretchers, ready to be taken to different institutions the government had prepared for just

such cases, and it was fortunate that Jack could walk, though he looked weak.

"Jack, dear, home again," was all Pearl could say as she kissed him and put her arms around him in a fond embrace.

"My boy," was all the father said, as with tears welling up in his eyes, he embraced his son.

"Mighty glad to see you, dear," he said to Pearl, as he received her fond caresses.

"How do you feel, Jack?" asked Mrs. Carlton.

"Comfortable now, mother, thanks," responded Jack.

"Were you wounded severely, dear?" asked Pearl.

"Not so much from the wound, but I was gassed, too, which made me so weak. Yes, I got a bad wound through the fleshy part of the leg and a flesh wound in my side, but no bones broken. I will have to go slow, as I am all bandaged up and my leg still pains, but I'll get over it through the noble services of the nurses on the other side who were on hand when I was first brought in to the hospital," he replied.

"Come home, Jack," said Pearl, taking his arm.

"Wait until I report to our commanding officer on this trip, I'll make all the details clear to him so as to avoid any more trips, and if you will give me the order you have from Washington, then it will make matters

easier," replied Jack, as he took the papers Pearl gave him, and went over to the officers' quarters with the assistance of all three, who were not going to lose sight of him.

"Jack, let me attend to all the details," said Mr. Carlton.

"Certainly, I'll sit here and answer all the questions," replied Jack, as the officer came up with the orders of transfer, and in a short time all the details were arranged, papers signed and Jack was escorted to the waiting automobile, which took him to his own home, and as Hilda had been ordered to have everything in readiness, she was there at the door, ready to assist in every possible way.

"Is your arm strong again?" asked Jack.

"Yes, Jack, plenty able to nurse you," she replied.

"I'm perfectly willing to take your orders, dear," said Jack, resignedly.

It was five months before Jack was himself again and these two fond young hearts had enjoyed their honeymoon that had been interrupted so suddenly.

"My son, I want you to come and share in my business," said Jack's father one day shortly afterward.

"I will be at the office tomorrow," he replied.

"How fortunate for us both that now, after all our narrow escapes, we should be able to settle down to routine work," said Pearl.

"I received my honorable discharge papers today, dear," said Jack.

"You will not take up arms again, will you, Jack?" asked Pearl.

"If the Government wants me they can call on me at any time," he replied.

"And me, too," said Pearl.

"I guess they will let us recuperate a little longer," said Jack.

"Will your office duties take all your time, dear?" asked Pearl.

"From nine to four-thirty. I expect Dad will soon retire and I want to master all the details as quickly as I can," said Jack.

"I am going to join the Red Cross workers and help all I can when you are at the office," said Pearl.

"Certainly, do all in your power for the cause," he replied.

Next day Jack was down at the office and was officially installed in the manager's position of the concern where his father had been carrying on business for over twenty-five years; it was the publishing business and the many clerks needed in a business of this kind indicated the vast volume of trade this firm handled.

Jack had been more or less familiar with all the details but now he was to be the head and a responsible position so suddenly thrust upon him made him feel as if now, more than at any time in his life, was his full power called upon, and to make a success of his

father's business was simply to keep up the high standard of work his father had established and not let any flaw get into the smoothly running machinery.

Frank Morley was the foreman of the press room and Jack called him into the office and told him the new condition of affairs and wanted him to co-operate with him as much as possible, which he promised to do.

Jack interviewed all the other heads of departments; also the bookkeeper and cashier, so he became conversant with all parts of the business in a short time.

"My boy, I'll leave the establishment in your charge," said Mr. Carlton soon after Jack had things running smoothly.

In the meantime Pearl was doing her part in the Red Cross work.

"Miss Anderson, will you take some letters for me?" asked Jack.

The stenographer was a very charming young lady of about twenty-four years of age, had brown hair and was considered good looking. She had a splendid figure and her blue eyes sparkled with life and energy as she took her notebook and pencil in hand to the inner office and seated herself ready for a series of shorthand dictation from her new manager. This was her second week under Jack's authority and she seemed to be quite pleased, he was so very nice and attentive, not obtrusive but courteous, and often asked her questions pertaining to her

social affairs, that quite puzzled her to know just how to take them,—as advances, or was it a habit of his and not to be taken seriously.

"Mr. Carlton, I am sorry, but I have an engagement tonight," said the stenographer in answer to an invitation she received from him to take her to a show in the evening.

Jack had been different since he came from the front and it was not yet noticeable to any great extent at home, but Pearl did not lose her warm affection for him; at any rate she did not show it.

"Jack, what makes you so late for dinner?" asked Pearl one evening about seven o'clock.

"Why, dear, I had to attend to some office work," he replied. The manager of the press room was sick today and I had to see that everything was done properly."

"Would you like to go to the show tonight?" asked Pearl.

"Yes, let's go over to the moving pictures nearby; there is a good bill on tonight," he replied.

"Jack, why don't you hold my hand any more?" asked Pearl, somewhat downhearted.

"Why, dear, I didn't notice I was not attentive," he replied.

"We are to go over to my mother's tomorrow evening for supper," said Pearl.

"Sorry, but I have to be at the office as I have an engagement for tomorrow evening

with one of the heads of a department and I am to take dinner out, as we can only attend to matters after the machinery is shut down and make our plans for some additions to the establishment," he replied.

"I'll have to phone mother you won't be there, but I'll go anyway, as I have to get some sewing that I left there yesterday," said Pearl.

Jack kept drifting with the tide of events that seemed to take his attention ever since he took charge of the business and it seemed, with the new duties he assumed, the less attention he gave to his wife. So it was this condition that prompted him to ask his stenographer the second time to go out to dinner and she had consented to do so, but with the understanding that she was to be home by ten-thirty o'clock.

Jack was all smiles when the time came for him to close the office and go to the restaurant where he met the stenographer, quietly waiting at a table by herself.

"Waiting long?" asked Jack.

"No, I just arrived a few minutes ago," replied Mabel.

"Now let me order for you, if you don't mind," said Jack.

"Certainly, you can order for me, but please read off the menu and I'll select," she replied.

"Anything else you care for?" asked Jack, as they were about to depart.

"No, thank you," she replied.

"Do you dance?" asked Jack.

"Yes, I am very fond of it," she answered.

"Suppose we go to a dancing school that has a special public dance tonight," suggested Jack.

"That would be fine," she replied.

"I'll order a cab to take us there," said Jack, as he hailed one nearby.

Driven rapidly they soon reached the dance hall, which, upon entering, they soon found was rather crowded. This suited Jack, as he would not be noticed there amongst so many. Jack danced and seemed to enjoy himself, but there was something that seemed to put a damper on his usual good disposition and he was inclined now to be rather unconcerned in his conversation and answers, which Mabel felt was due to the newness of her company, as this had been her first time out with her employer, and to judge from her behavior it was easy to see that she was the least concerned of the two.

"One more dance," said Jack.

"It's getting late," responded Mabel.

"We can take a cab home, so don't worry," he replied.

"I'm not going to worry," said Mabel as they were dancing, and when a few moments later the music stopped, they proceeded to go home.

Jack put his arms around Mabel and tried to kiss her, as they were being driven home

in the taxi. She resisted, but only slightly, and permitted him to kiss her, and then it seemed they had known one another all their lives, judging from the manner in which they indulged in their love making, as Jack grew reckless and forgot all about the loving wife he had deceived, in telling her an untruth about the evening's engagement; but it was ever thus; once we overstep the bounds then it is a royal battle for the mastery and it usually proves very disastrous to both when not fortified with the proper amount of self-will and self-respect. Then the race is run in a short time and unless Providence interferes it usually ends in divorce and remarriage, only to be unhappy and still looking for the bluebird that brings peace to one's soul, when, if they had only known, it was right at home.

"Jack, I enjoyed the evening immensely," said Mabel.

"Am glad you did. Now give me one more kiss before I go," he replied, embracing her as she stood in the doorway of her home, and, fearing he would attract the attention of those inside, she complied, to stop his repeated requests.

"Good night, and I hope some time soon we will be able to repeat our very pleasant evening," said Jack, who had gotten over his melancholy state and seemed to be in a happy mood.

"Good night," said Mabel, as she shut the door.

Jack went directly home and found Pearl had arrived just a few moments before him.

"Dear, did you get through your work?" asked Pearl.

"Yes, I'm all through and it will be some time next week that I will be called upon to do the same work," replied Jack.

"Indeed, what night, Jack? as I want to hold an open evening to our friends next week; we should receive our callers soon, dear, as I have had no day set aside to receive them; we should be more sociable and get out more; it will do both of us real good," said Pearl.

"I believe you're right," said Jack, not knowing just how she meant it.

"Do you know, dear, I met a friend on the car as I was coming up from mother's whom I had not seen for three years; he used to be an old beau of mine, Tom Manning; we were quite intimately acquainted then, but somehow I let him go through a little misunderstanding between us and tonight he spoke to me again. I talked to him, too, wasn't that right?" asked Pearl.

"Perfectly proper," said Jack, looking at her in a peculiar way.

"I invited him up to see us, as I told him we were married," said Pearl.

"Any particular evening?" asked Jack.

"Yes, next Wednesday evening," responded Pearl.

"Why, that's the night I will be out attending to the engagement I spoke to you about," he replied.

"Shall I write him not to come?" asked Pearl.

"No, let him come; it will be perfectly proper to have him call," he replied.

"I want you to meet him," said Pearl.

"If he is still here when I get back perhaps I can see him then," he replied, as he prepared to retire for the night, only to lie awake with the thoughts troubling him as to his own actions and the new trouble in meeting Pearl's old friend.

He at last fell into a restless sleep with a dream of seeing his wife's former admirer kissing her and his fury and resentment toward the other for doing such a thing, which act he himself had been guilty of, and he was not willing to shift the blame where it belonged, right at his own doorstep, himself only to blame.

Wednesday evening came, and it was the same party that Jack met in the restaurant and after the usual excellent dinner they proposed to go to a cabaret instead of a dance hall, which was acceptable to Mabel.

Pearl's friend arrived at 8 o'clock and it was with his old-time feeling of love and affection that spurred his soul as he saw Pearl dressed in a very becoming gown and her

charming figure and pretty face seemed to bring the young man to realize what a fool he had been to have given up such a lovely creature, as he could have had her if he had not been so stubborn. And now she was here in his presence again, but she was married to another—that was the hardest blow of all, but he plucked up courage and talked of old times and affairs that concerned them alone and he did move close and he could hardly be blamed for the thought as he had a desire to hold her in his arms again and beg her to forgive him. And his actions were almost the force of his will as he held out his hand to take hers. She gave it to him as she sat there and he was satisfied even to hold the hand that once caressed him. It was maddening to him to think she was so near and yet so far. Then he asked her a question.

“Where is Mr. Carlton tonight?”

“He is busy at the office,” she replied.

“I would like to see him,” said Tom.

“He will be here soon; wait a while,” replied Pearl.

“Maybe that’s him now,” he said as the front door closed.

“It is Jack,” she replied, as she heard his footsteps coming in her direction.

“Mr. Manning, this is my husband,” said Pearl.

“Glad to meet you,” Jack replied.

“Thank you,” responded Tom.

“Well, dear, are you tired?” asked Pearl.

"Oh, no, I'm feeling fine," replied Jack.

"What's that, Jack?" asked Pearl, as she noticed he had brought a package home with him.

"Some ice cream I brought home," he said.

"That's nice; let's have some now," she replied, going out to get some dishes and spoons.

"Mr. Carlton, are you any relation of the publisher by that name?" asked Tom.

"Why, yes, I run that concern," replied Jack.

"I'm in the printing business, too, but in a different branch," said Tom.

"Job printing, I suppose," remarked Jack.

"Yes, and I'd like to call and see you some time," replied Tom.

"Do so any time you care to," said Jack.

"Good night," said both, as Tom took his departure, and for the second time Jack had escaped detection, but it was not always to be so easy, as he soon found out, as the next week Tom called at the office and met Jack and incidentally met Miss Anderson and one evening as Tom was out dining he saw Jack with Miss Anderson. This was rather unusual, so the next time he met Pearl he told her to be careful and not to mention his name, but he thought it was his duty to tell her of this bit of news, which was indeed a surprise to Pearl, who nearly fainted upon

learning the truth. But she resolved to keep this to herself and see if she could not try and break off these meetings of her husband with the stenographer; but how to do it she was puzzled, until a plan, which seemed feasible to her, was evolved in her brain. Then she resolved she would try it out.

First of all she was very affectionate with Jack and very attentive to the least detail; then she wrote Miss Anderson a note, to have her call and see her; she waited very patiently for a reply, but it was two weeks after that a letter came from her and it read thus:

"Dear Madam: Your note to me of recent date received. I will not be able to call as you desire, but if you care to see your husband in company with an actress you can go to Shortley's cafe on — Avenue and there behold your devoted husband paying attention to one of the stars in vaudeville. Yours cordially, Mabel Anderson."

Pearl kept this letter and the next night that her husband went out she did something that was repellent to her. Yet she wanted to win him back and to prove the truth of the note she went to the cafe indicated and there was Jack with a woman, who looked to be young and very pretty, seated by his side and talking earnestly to him. She waited until she was sure he intended to take her home; then she went back to her own home and waited, as she did not want to create a

scene in public that would attract attention to herself and her husband.

The telephone bell rang and Pearl answered it and recognized the voice of Jack's mother, who said that her husband was very sick and for Jack and she to come right over. She hurried as fast as possible and left a note for Jack to come immediately to his father's, then quickly went over to see if she could do anything.

Mr. Carlton had taken a stroke and it was said by the doctor, "Likely to prove fatal and at any moment the end might come;" yet Jack did not arrive nor ring the phone; Pearl called up the house and Hilda said he had not returned yet. Just then a clock was striking the hour of midnight and when Jack reached his father's bedside a half hour later just in time to hear him say:

"My boy, Jack, I can't leave you without asking you to reverence the name of our family and keep it free from stain, by living up to the high standard of morality that your ancestors, your mother and myself, have followed. Will you promise, son, that you will cherish Pearl and love her as long as life lasts; if so, then I bequeath to you and your loving wife three-quarters' interest in the business and one-quarter to my wife; but at the expiration of one year from now if you have not kept that promise then it will revert to my wife to be hers to dispose of as she may think best. You are to have an in-

come suitable to your needs in the meantime, but remember, my son, I must have your promise. Now are you willing to do so?" he asked, being much fatigued with the effort he had made to complete the message before he passed over the Divide.

"I promise, father, that I will do as you say, and from now on I will lead a different life, and will take Pearl as my own true sweetheart till death do us part; so do I promise with God's help," replied Jack, holding his father's hand as he felt it growing cold, and soon the life had left the house of clay to dwell in a new home in the spirit world, where all mortal form is absent and behold, all things are become new. The real man is now alive.

"My dear Jack, how noble of you to give your father's last moments on earth such a reassurance of your determination to be one of the loyal and true sons of this noble family, whose honor your father has tried to uphold, and live accordingly," said Pearl.

"I have been given a lesson, dear, and after all, what pleasure is there for one who spends his time and money on wine, women and song, when he has the prettiest and sweetest wife in the wide world," replied Jack.

Pearl put her arms around his neck and kissed him.

"You know how Dad took such pride in the family name and for me to jeopardize



that honorable name for a few hours of pleasure does not pay, if anyone who treads the wrong path will only stop, look and listen before it is too late, then that one will be considered very wise," said Jack.

"I'm so glad, dear, you have found your little bluebird at home by our own fireside," she replied.

Both had come to realize that life was not a plaything to barter with but to be a success one must understand how to live and be happy. This was the critical moment of his life and he resolved to carry out his father's wishes.

After the funeral, Jack settled down to business and gave great promise that he would succeed in the undertaking and in course of time his home life took on a different aspect, for now there was another occupant in the home—a little baby boy who lay close to his mother's breast as she smiled at her new-born son. She was proud of him and she hoped when he grew older he might look like Jack and she was going to call him John, after her husband's name.

So it was settled that the little John Clifford Carlton, Jr., was to be her boy's name when he was four days old.

"Nora, answer the phone, please," asked Pearl, addressing her nurse, who had been installed in the family as a permanent occupant, now that a new arrival had come into the household.

"Your husband, ma'am, wants to inquire how you feel and if he can do anything for you," repeated Nora.

"Bring the phone to me," requested Pearl, as she took the extension made for the occasion so that it would be convenient while resting.

"Yes, dear, I am feeling very well and baby is not a bit cross. Come up early this evening," she remarked. "Bye bye, dear," hanging up the receiver she settled herself comfortably and took her boy close to herself. She prayed to heaven that her boy might be led to live in the true way that leads to success and happiness.

CHAPTER IX.

PEARL DEVELOPS OCCULT POWERS

"Hilda and you, Nora, will get ready and pack up for a trip to the seashore," said Pearl, nine months later, as the weather had been quite warm Jack had planned to take his wife and baby there to escape the heated atmosphere of the city.

"We leave this afternoon," said Pearl to Nora.

"I have all the things ready in the auto to take with us," she replied.

"Carry the baby, Nora, while I tell Hilda to keep the house in order until we return," said Pearl.

"Everything ready, dear?" asked Jack, as they got into the automobile and drove to the depot to take a train for the well-known summer resort—Atlantic City. Rooms had been engaged and all other arrangements made and Jack had the next two weeks with his family, nothing to worry over but to drink in the delightful, invigorating, health-giving air from the ocean.

They arrived in good time, and with the assistance of Nora, who had brought the carriage for John, Jr. to be wheeled about, there was no trouble for Pearl but to bask in the sunshine and rest on the sand and be with

Jack, as he had brought his bathing suit and had put it on, but expected to take a few snapshots before going into the water.

"Nora, will you bring baby and let him play in the sand?" asked Pearl.

John, Jr. was smiling and ready to pick up the loose sand as soon as he was sitting in it.

"I will take his picture and yours together," said Jack, addressing his wife, as he placed the camera and snapped it

"Now you sit down and see if I can get a good picture with baby sitting in your lap," said Pearl.

"Go ahead, that's fine," Jack replied, and his wife soon snapped them.

"I'll build a house for baby," said Jack, as he went about modeling the sand into a fair specimen of a house, which seemed to amuse the baby, who was just beginning to realize and appreciate the efforts of his parents to make him happy.

"Jack, why don't you go into the water?" asked Pearl.

"Here goes," he replied, as he walked to the water's edge and finding the water warm he waded out to the depth of his shoulders and for the next half hour he sported about like a live seal, for Jack was a good swimmer and thoroughly enjoyed these dips in the salt water. He ventured out to a considerable distance and was surprised to see only a few who went out as far as he, but feeling sure of himself he enjoyed it very much. Sud-

denly he heard a cry of **HELP** nearby, and others heard it too, but, being nearer than the rest, he swam in the direction of the appeal that had ceased when he reached the spot and diving under the water he searched the sandy bottom and there, floating seemingly lifeless, was the body of a young woman.

Jack quickly brought her to the surface and by that time the life guards had reached the spot. He gave the body to them and they rowed swiftly back to the beach and in quick order to the emergency hospital stationed there and it was almost twenty minutes before the doctor assured the bystanders that she was out of danger; then they removed her to her home and she soon recovered completely. But in the meantime Jack had reached his wife's side and related in detail the rescue he had so prominently figured in; it was one of those incidents that one may expect when thousands are bathing in the surf at the same time. Either the party ventures beyond their depth or else a fainting condition overcomes one while in the water.

But while Jack and his wife visited the beach, several days afterwards another rescue was made, but Jack did not figure in it this time.

One day the papers were full of rumors of enemy submarines lurking off the New Jersey coast, but nothing was definitely known as to whether any damage to our

merchantmen was done until a boatload of twenty-nine survivors was seen coming directly in to this resort. The life guards went out hastily to meet them and took out several women who nearly fainted for lack of proper nourishment. Great excitement was raised among the spectators and Jack rushed out to do what he could to help the exhausted men and women who had been out two nights and part of three days in the lifeboat, whose dimensions were as follows: Length, 24 feet. Beam, 7 feet 6 inches. Depth, 33 feet, belonging to the Steamship "Carolina." There were eight women and twenty-one men in the boat who were taken care of immediately by the kindness of everyone who happened to be near. Soon food and water were provided for them and it was many hours afterward that the women were strong enough to be taken away from the temporary abode to be sent on to their destinations.

The only thing left in the boat was about forty pounds of hardtack. As all the scanty supply of water had been exhausted before they reached land, the parched lips of the survivors were soon given the necessary amount of water to bring back the vigor and life to their tired bodies. In the boat was a single mast and on this mast was attached a woman's undervest, taken from one of the women passengers and hoisted as a signal, but no vessel was in sight and the hot sun of the next few days blistered the faces of those

CALL TO ARMS


The stirring drums beat loud and long,
Calling every man, both brave and strong
To fight for our Flag, in our country dear,
Keeping out the invader, from front and rear.

The duties will try every true man's heart,
But we must stand firm and do our part;
Fighting hand in hand, with strength to keep
The Nation's safety from the ships of the deep.

The enemy will arouse our neighbors to strife,
Against our glorious land, our bodies, our life.
But can you not see, where we don't all agree,
How the trouble will come from both land and sea?

What is to be done is very easy to tell;
For if you are a true American, you will do well
If you stand up for Old Glory, the Red, White and
Blue,
Inscribing your name that you'll be loyal and true.
—A. A. W.

exposed in the lifeboat. Jack had an interview with one of the survivors, who said the first notice his ship had of the nearness of the enemy submarine was by having two shots fired across the bow of the ship and bursting about seventy-five yards away. Then the captain read the signal for him to abandon the ship as soon as possible and take something to eat and drink with them, as there were ten lifeboats, including the crew. The enemy commander did not hurry the pas-



sengers as they climbed into the lifeboats, and one woman who stood on the edge of the ship jumped into one of the boats. Then when they were all off the submarine's commander ordered the boats to pull away from the ship about four hundred yards and he then gave the order to sink the ship by shell fire. In a little while the vessel sank out of sight. This was about seven o'clock Sunday evening, June second, nineteen eighteen, fifty miles off the coast opposite Atlantic City, N. J., and these ten lifeboats were left to the mercy of the sea. They rowed in the direction of the shore until darkness came upon them; then the black clouds soon enveloped the heavens and the lightning flashed and the wind arose which tossed the ten lifeboats about like playthings. Eight of the boats had to be propelled by oars while two were propelled by motor power. A rope was attached to one of the motor-driven boats and for a few minutes it pulled a lifeboat after it, but the storm arose more angrily and the rope snapped in twain and cast the lifeboat adrift from the rest, but the other nine lifeboats had kept together as best they could, while this one was driven before the wind in the darkness that was terrifying and each one will remember it to their dying day, one of the motor boats turned over with its load of human freight and spilled them into the water; and those who were fortunate enough to be clear of the gunwales of the boat es-

caped the crash as it turned turtle; imagine the confusion of those in the water trying to hang onto the side of the boat. After a time they finally righted the boat, but it was full of water, and then one man was lifted in to bail the water out with his hands; then it turned over the second time and it was righted again after a while. Another man was put in and then another, until all those who were alive got in; then it was found in counting up that about half had failed to get into this boat. Whether they had gone to the bottom or were taken into the other boats remained to be seen, but it was a pitiful sight, to say the least.

The nine other boatloads were afterwards accounted for as they arrived the same afternoon, after being out two nights and three days, about thirty-five miles away from the one Jack had seen. Many other vessels were sunk off the coast and the war had been brought right to our very door. What other demonstration might be made remained for the Americans to witness on this side of the Atlantic and was the burning question of the hour.

Further inquiry brought to light that the night before two boatloads of thirty-eight survivors had been saved from another ship and had landed at the Inlet in Atlantic City, making three boatloads to land on the beach of this favorite resort. The occupants of these two boats had been cared for by the

government officials at the lighthouse and had been given quarters and meals at a nearby hotel. Much sympathy was expressed by the visiting Shriners, who had met at their convention, held there at that time, and a collection was taken up which amounted to about one thousand dollars and was given to the survivors.

This incident was food for talk for a day or two, Jack and Pearl were getting a good rest and feeling the benefit of the trip, as each day it would be a trip on the yacht, another day a trolley ride to a neighboring town, in the evening to the piers and moving pictures and theatre where a New York production was put on at this resort, that brought out every theatre-going person. It was the Follies of 1918, full of vim and entertainment all the evening—most enjoyable.

When the two weeks were up Jack felt fit for harness again and went back to his desk with his old-time vigor and often wished he could hear from his own battalion of brave boys, who were holding the line, for it had been in the neighborhood of the recent enemy drive that the boys had won their two trenches and for which Jack had received honorable mention, together with his troops which had participated in the action; but now he had a family to support and would be exempt from further enlistment.

Miss Anderson, his former stenographer, had a new position with another firm, after

her experience with Jack, which had been a lesson to her which she would not forget. But, luckily for her, she had taken the warning to heart and it was to be hoped she would keep to the straight path in the future.

When the year was up Jack came into all his estate, together with his wife, who shared jointly the three-quarter interest in the business, and Jack's mother secured the other quarter interest, but they still lived on West End Avenue in their apartment, which had been given them by Julia when they were married, that is, all the furnishings were owned by them, but as it was leased on a five years' lease by Mrs Carlton they had two years more to live there before the lease expired.

Business was now very good and Jack soon saw that the improved methods, which he had installed, bore fruit, in transacting the regular volume of business more quickly and with very satisfactory results. He could tell at any time what he was making by the system of cost accounting and he could eliminate a branch of the business that heretofore was a burden. Now it was replaced by more up-to-date methods, such as machinery for linotype, instead of setting up by the tiresome process of handwork. These once installed and paid for put his firm in a position where he could command the trade in reasonable price and most of the new work was submitted to his firm for estimates and he

usually got a fair amount of business from those who asked for these quotations.

Then he had an accountant make a monthly audit of the cash and the bank statement, together with the earnings of the company, so that at the end of each month he could tell just where he stood.

"Jack, will you stop and get seats for the theatre tonight," asked Pearl over the telephone one afternoon in July, as the theatres in the upper west side were open all the year.

"All right, dear, why not ask mother to go, too," he replied.

"Surely, you phone her and see if she can go, will you, dear?" asked Pearl.

"I'll attend to it, Pearl; how is the baby?" he asked.

"The darling is on the floor, learning to creep, and he said 'Jack' as plainly as anyone could. Good bye, dear, and come home early this evening, so we can take a walk to your mother's before we go to the theatre," said she.

"I'll leave here about five o'clock; good bye," he replied.

"Nora, you can get baby ready for an outing, as we will all go over to the Drive and then to mother's before we go to the theatre," said Pearl, after the evening repast had been disposed of.

"This extra hour of sunshine is certainly a blessing," said Jack, as they strolled along the thoroughfare in broad daylight, with the

sun still shining, and yet it was after supper. It seemed so unusual, but was quite welcome as a war necessity to help conserve coal and light supply.

"I'll see if mother is ready. You and baby stay out here on the bench," said Jack.

"Don't be long, dear," answered Pearl, as he crossed over the Drive.

Presently he was seen coming with his mother, and for the next fifteen minutes they all seated themselves and watched the constant stream of vehicles that passed up and down this busy Drive.

"Suppose we start now. It's about time to go to the theatre, isn't it?" asked Pearl.

"Yes, we'd better be going. Let's walk back with Nora a short way and I'll see she gets over the Drive safely before we leave her," replied Jack, who very shortly did so and left Nora to take baby home and to be put to bed.

"Is my darling comfortable?" asked Pearl, as she leaned over the carriage and tucked baby in, to be rewarded with a smile from her little son. He was the apple of her eye, so well-developed; he had blue eyes and golden hair and the most sunny disposition; seldom cried, except when some pin happened to stick in him or a stomach ache bothered him.

"Nora, be careful," said Pearl.

"Good bye, baby," said Jack's mother.

As Nora took the baby away all three

walked to the theatre and arrived in time to see the opening number, which was one of those travelogue moving pictures, showing a party of young men and women who were sightseeing in the Canadian mountains, a most wonderful picture, to be followed by a musical number, which, with other acts, they really enjoyed. Then the longer feature moving picture by the well-known star, who usually is well-liked whenever his pictures are seen. This completed the show and it was with a feeling of contentment that Jack proposed to see his mother home, and when good night was said, he soon found upon entering the bedroom of his home, that baby was sleeping soundly and then they walked softly to their own room so as not to awaken baby, after telling Nora to heat the bottle of milk if baby cried.

"Dear, isn't it a pleasure to have such harmony in a home?" asked Pearl.

"If all couples could only realize this one great truth, then much enjoyment of married life and companionship would be experienced by all," replied Jack.

"What is that secret, dear?" asked Pearl.

"Haven't you found it out yet?" he asked.

"Perhaps I have always known it," she replied.

"Yes, you taught me once to be satisfied with what we have and not to be envious of others," he replied.

"Is that the secret, Jack?" asked she.

"Yes, that's just it," he replied.

"How simple, yet how many fail to see this great truth or act upon it. Jack, I had the most wonderful dream last night and I did not think to tell you this morning before you left," she said, after she had discarded some of her superfluous garments and had put on a silk garment suitable for July weather, as she perched herself on Jack's knee, with one arm about his neck and with her golden hair hanging loosely down her back. She presented a very beautiful picture of what a wife's devotion and love can manifest in all its characteristics of modesty and motherly devotion to her husband and her baby. Such loving instincts, when judged from the right motives, are the hereditary qualities that are seen in the children of parents who are mated in a spiritual atmosphere.

"Tell me the dream, dear," requested Jack.

"Well, I seemed to be taken out of the body and traveling on a long flight through space, accompanied by someone whom I knew was with me, yet I could not see who it was; but we soon arrived at a beautiful section of country that did not seem to be of this earth, but on another planet or sphere, and I was about to ask my guide where I was when before me there appeared a man, for such he appeared to be, but entirely different from the ordinary men of our race. He was

dressed in fine garments, the like I have never seen for quality and effect; it seemed as if they were made of silk and had a loose flowing outer garment flowing over his right shoulder, and with his right hand raised he took me along a great highway that was lined on both sides with beautiful homes and gardens in front of each home, with a back and side strip of land that went around each house. Some were of the most beautiful patterns of bungalow styles, like those we saw in California, Jack, on our trip there. You remember, dear, that others were stone, and some others of pressed brick; some like the present pattern of the modern houses. Then I came to the end of this highway and there before me was the most beautiful landscape I have ever seen. It was laid out in the form of a great central building and radiating from the center was the most brilliant light I ever saw. It seemed to penetrate on all sides and the streets that led from this central building went out in four different directions, one from the center to the north, then the other street from the center to the south, from the center to the west, and from the center to the east, and these four streets had no end to them, that is, I could not see the end; but they all centered into this one great and beautiful building. I was told to look and see what happened; gradually away off in the distance on each of these four streets I saw coming toward this building a

great host of people; they were in all conditions; some young, some old, some poor, some rich, some white, some black, some Chinese, some Indians—in fact, they were all the children of this earth coming up the four different avenues toward the one central building, and I waited and saw them approach and they were the spirits of those who had lived on the earth, but whose bodies had been buried or disposed of in any manner—it mattered not how. The guide told me these were souls who had from time to time come to the spiritland and as they approached nearer they stopped just before the great building; then I heard a voice that seemed to come out of the building and I heard the voice say so that everyone could hear, even those who were so far away that the eye could not see them; ‘My beloved brethren: You have been brought here tonight to show this earnest seeker after the truth that the souls of men do not perish after the mortal body has ceased to be the abiding place of the spirit. Take this message to your world of men and tell them no soul is lost but all souls in every age and color and in all conditions are borne to spiritland when they leave the body.’ Then the scene was changed and now I was taken to a world where it was not very bright. Some parts were dark as the blackest night and many men and women were there. They are the ones who have in their lives lived the lives of selfishness and lived in sin and

drunkenness, in crime, and trickery and they are not very happy nor are they ever going up higher until they ask God to grant them new thoughts and new desires and new aspirations and new loves. For the love of sin is the only thing that keeps them here but after they express a fervent desire to go into the light; then a helping hand is given them and they are brought out of the darkness into a brighter world or sphere. I was taken to each different sphere and as I saw each I marveled at the vast number of souls in each sphere. There were seven spheres shown me; the second was much better than the first; the third better than the second; and the fourth was very beautiful; so each soul finds upon entering the spiritland when he or she dies his place of abode either on the first, second, third or fourth spheres, just where their vibrations were developed to harmonize at time of transition—there each will go. In the higher planes there was harmony and love and the most beautiful souls and faces I have ever seen, together with the gorgeous homes and lovely parks and green grass and lakes with fish that were alive and birds singing so sweetly that I suppose if I would go up into the higher spheres I could not live to tell you all the most wonderful sights.

“The guide told me that if I lived a good and pure life then my vibrations will be attuned to those same vibrations on the spirit

side of life, and I would immediately go there when I left the mortal world. I was not allowed to go higher for my eyes were almost blind from the beauty and splendor of those spheres I had the pleasure to travel in the astral form, and now I am back in old New York. Wasn't that strange that I should be shown all those different spheres, dear?" asked Pearl.

"That was interesting," said Jack.

"I often sense spirits around me," said Pearl.

"How do you feel when they come near?" asked Jack.

"It is hard to explain to anyone who does not know about these laws of attraction, but every soul is a magnet and attracts other souls of those who have thrown off this mortal coil to come back and come in close contact with those who still inhabit the earthly form. They can come real close to those who are developed so they can sense these spirits being near them, and some persons can even hear the spirits talk to them; some can see the spirits all around them and some can photograph the spirits and take their pictures the same as if you and I posed for the likeness. But there has to be a medium before you can get any results. It seems they are the ones from which the spirits can build up a form so that the sensitized plates can take the picture, but the eye can't see them,

except those who are clairvoyant," said Pearl.

"Where did you get all this knowledge?" asked Jack, quite interested now.

"I guess the spirit guide told me in my sleep, more than any other way. That's the way I saw the vision I just told you about, and that's the way I get the impressions I have about certain people, for it is then my guide can impress me what to say. It doesn't seem to be very hard to write a letter to anyone I love for then it is the impulse of the natural attributes that find expression in such correspondence," said Pearl.

"How wonderful. I begin to see the truth of that statement," replied Jack.

"Did you ever stop and think what we are placed here on this earth for?" asked Pearl.

"Many times, but the problem was too deep for me, I confess," answered Jack.

"And it is still too deep for me, but I am trying to get some light on the trail by letting myself be led by the unseen forces and not throw out any antagonistic feeling to any such investigation," said Pearl.

"I guess that's where all the trouble lies," answered Jack.

"You are right, dear, for if a person would listen to reason and give heed to the still small voices of his soul, then more light would come to this clouded world. It is a very deep question and one that will be answered by someone to the satisfaction of many able

scientists who have given strong testimony in favor of these spirit phenomenon," said Pearl.

"I am going to have you give me a few lessons in spiritual science, for I think that will unlock all the mystery," replied Jack.

"My dear, you're learning fast; I really believe you would make a splendid worker for this great truth," said Pearl.

"Now let's go to bed and dream some more," said Jack, as he took his pretty wife in his arms and kissed her with a love that spoke volumes for their future, as marriage ties depend all on this one thing, that is, true love. Let's go into the silence of our own sanctuary and there draw the water of life, as the Master once said,—“Drink ye of it and ye shall never thirst.” This spring of eternal truth, the living water of eternal life which is in everyone's possession; only some learn this truth so late in life that it is hard to realize, when if the youth could be taught to see and cultivate their hidden powers, how much more valuable these lessons would be if lived daily and to demonstrate to others the truths set forth.

Happy days for these two young seekers of truth and it was a delight to sit at the seance and see what impressions would come to Pearl, for Jack had great faith in the psychic powers of his wife and he often consulted her in regard to the numerous business affairs, and she could give some valuable

information by listening to the inner voice of the spirit guides who are her helpers and she always gave glory to the Father of all life—God—as the guiding power of all, that is the true source of life. The fountain head of all energy and the messengers or helpers are the channels whereby this great help is sent—we are all children of the Great High God in the true spiritual sense and no soul is lost to eternal torture forever, but there is progression over there the same as here; this eternal progress goes on both sides of the grave just the same. No change in the spirit, only in death the spirit is free to vibrate on that plane to the degree its advancement had attained and it goes right on, has the same thoughts and ideas after death that it had before transition.

EASTER MORNING

Glory! Glory! Praises to the Lord!
Christ has arisen, our joy record;
The angels in heaven with glad acclaim,
Life and immortality to all will gain.

Christ's Holy Life will help each one
To make life worthy and a victory won.
For the Son of man with kindness untold,
His daily life's lessons to you unfold.

Invite Him into your home to sup;
He is willing and waiting to help you up
The steep pathway of life, with burdens and care,
Only trust Him, he guides you with love so rare.

—A. A. W.

CHAPTER X.

THE BABY AN INTERESTING STUDY

"Baby has another tooth, Jack, and he says ever so many words very distinctly," exclaimed Pearl.

"Nurse him as much as possible, for it will be fine if he would grow up and have those hidden powers unfolded," replied Jack.

"Maybe he will take after his mother and be a student of psychology," said Pearl.

"It would please me," he replied.

"Will you be home about five o'clock this evening, Jack, for it is the night I have invited a few friends to spend the evening," asked Pearl.

"Yes, I will be home early. Do you want anything downtown?" he asked thoughtfully.

"Bring up some flowers for our vases, will you, dear?" requested Pearl.

"All right, anything else?" he replied.

"That's all," said Pearl, as she fondly kissed her husband good bye.

"Nora, will you take the baby out now for his usual morning outing; go over to Central Park with him," she said.

"Thank you, ma'am, I have been going over there several times lately. It's fine to

see the baby playing on the grass these nice warm days," replied Nora.

"Be back by twelve o'clock," said Pearl, as she kissed baby and saw him safely started.

Nora usually walked toward the lake and sat on one of the benches in the shade and it was only on the last visit there that she met another nurse who had the same duties to perform as she wheeled a fine baby girl, the daughter of a rich banker, in the same direction as Nora, and here they met for the second time.

"Hello there," said Nora to her new friend.

"Good morning," replied Mary O'Connor, the nurse, as she seated herself beside Nora.

"Look at the launch out there, isn't it crowded today," exclaimed Nora.

"Did you ever ride in it?" asked Mary.

"No, I never did," responded Nora.

"Let's walk around the lake and see the landing," suggested Mary.

"But I don't think I'll ride," said Nora.

"Nor I either, only it would be nice to see the people getting on and off," replied Mary.

Together they walked and wheeled their carriages ahead of them, making a very pretty domestic scene.

They reached the pavilion and stood watching the many visitors; then finally took seats on a bench in the meadows, some distance away.

"We are just in time to see the regiment drill," said Nora.

"Have you never seen them drill?" asked Mary.

"No, have you?" responded Nora.

"Many times, as I have a brother in one of the regiments that used to drill here, but he is now over in France fighting," she replied.

"Do you get any word from him?" asked Nora, as she looked at the boys march on the green grass.

"Not for six weeks have we received any word," replied Mary.

"Are you worried about him?" asked Nora.

"Mother is, but I told her not to worry as something might have prevented him from writing," she replied.

"So long as you don't get word from the Government you may rest easy, for I understand they notify the nearest relative when anything happens to them," said Nora.

"That's what I told mother, but you know how mothers worry, and mine is no exception," responded Mary, as she was watching the drill.

"My, what a fine sight it is to see all those men drilling. Don't they step fine, though," remarked Nora.

"Look, there is another column of sailors coming in at the entrance," said Mary.

"We are in luck to see both," replied Nora as she took a deeper interest in both drills.

"Wonder who the two soldier boys are who are sitting next to us," asked Nora.

"Nice looking boys. I suppose they are waiting to go to camp," replied Mary.

Just then little John, Jr. threw his rattle directly over to the soldier in khaki, who promptly picked up the rattle and returned it to Nora, who thanked the young man and took the opportunity to ask what regiment it was that was drilling on the meadows.

"The Seventy-first Regiment, National Guard, New York," he said.

"And the sailors; what ship are they from?" she asked.

"Why, I think they belong to the training ship on the Hudson River close by, or they might belong to any one of the battleships which are lying at anchor," he replied.

"When are you boys going to France?" said Mary, accepting this opportunity to open up a conversation with the boys.

"My friend and I are on a furlough from one of the camps. We came to town to see our folks and will go back tomorrow night," he replied.

"How interesting. Won't you bring your friend over and sit down awhile?" suggested Nora.

"Come over here, Charlie," called out our new friend to the lad who was still seated. "This is my friend, Charles Dempsey, ladies," said he, as he introduced his companion.

"Pleased to meet you," said both girls, as the boys took seats.

"My name is Frank Collins," said the first lad, who asked if they were intruding.

"No, indeed, we are glad to talk to someone who is really in the service," replied Mary.

The girls then gave their first names to the boys, who by this time felt quite at home, as most boys do on such short acquaintance, especially when there is nothing else to do for the moment.

Charlie soon took a seat by the side of Mary and Frank by the side of Nora. And then the four, free from worry for the present, enjoyed a good half hour's frolic and fun, with many a good joke told, as you can imagine they would take advantage of the opportunity, as the prospects of seeing any of the female sex were very remote when they once got into the trenches and were on duty at the battle front. So let them enjoy a half hour of wit and humor; it did no harm, for friendships, with these girls, are as much desired as anyone else who likes the companionship of the opposite sex.

"We will have to be going," said the boys, as they bid both girls farewell, and off they went to say a last good bye to their parents and other dear ones.

"Nice boys," said Nora, as they got ready to go to their different homes.

"So strong and good natured," replied Mary.

"When can I see you again?" asked Nora.

"If it's nice weather I'll be here tomorrow," she responded, as she left her friend to go home.

"How did baby behave?" asked Pearl.

"Fine, madam. He was no trouble at all. Did you ever see the soldiers drill in Central Park?" asked Nora.

"Yes, on several occasions. Did you see them today, Nora?" asked Pearl.

"Yes, and the sailors, too. They made a fine showing, with their blue suits and white caps," she replied, quite pleased.

"Very interesting," said Pearl.

"Madam, will you show me how to make a woolen sweater?" asked Nora, after she had put the baby to sleep.

"Certainly," she replied. "Can you knit?"

"Yes, I can do that, but I don't know just how to get started in the correct way to make a sweater," replied Nora.

"I'll give you instruction every day until you are able to go ahead yourself," said Pearl.

"I have plenty of time when I have the baby out in the park, I might just as well do some work for the soldiers. Maybe I could get one sweater made and I could then send it to one of the boys in the camp for the winter," suggested Nora.

"How noble and thoughtful of you," replied Pearl.

"I have a friend who is going across to France to fight very soon," said Nora.

"Then it will be just the thing to get a sweater made for him," replied Pearl.

"Thank you, very much, for the trouble," said Nora, and in a very short time she could be seen out in the park under the shady trees knitting away, and she had taught her friend, Mary, who was soon able to do very good work, in a little while afterwards both had a complete garment apiece, which they proceeded to send to their friends, for the boys had left their addresses and the sweaters were forwarded to them by parcel post.

Maybe on some cold winter night they would appreciate these very same tokens of friendship, especially when they were called to watch with the snow and sleet falling on their shoulders. Such a sacrifice, though small to some, yet may save a soldier's life,—one who is exposed to the damp and chilly night air.

"Come, darling, walk over to me," said Jack to his little son, a few days afterward.

"Why, he can really walk without assistance," exclaimed Pearl, as she watched her son travel the entire distance the length of the room.

"Papa's got candy for you, dear," said Jack encouragingly, as his son enjoyed the

feat, which was something new for him, as he only tried to walk that day.

"Candy," exclaimed the baby, holding out his little hands for some of the tempting sweets.

"Did you hear that?" asked Jack, as he gave the baby a piece.

"Papa eat candy, too," said the son.

"Surely, son, I'll eat with you," replied Jack.

"He is learning to talk real well," said Pearl.

The next day he surprised Nora when he said to her, "go see boat," very plainly.

"Yes, darling, I'll take you to see the boat," replied Nora, as she wheeled him in the direction of Central Park.

"Let's go for a ride on the boat," asked Nora, when she met Mary again.

"All right, but where are we going to put the carriages?" asked Mary.

"I'll take a ride first with my baby, while you watch the carriage and your baby, then when I come back you can go with your little one while I stay and watch the carriages."

Nora got on the boat with a half dozen others and they were soon enjoying a ride and it pleased the baby so, who seemed to understand almost everything said to him and almost cried when Nora lifted him out while Mary took her turn.

But John, Jr., was good and waited patiently until his little girl companion had

made the trip on the lake, and they were placed in their carriages to be taken over to the playgrounds, where other children had congregated, the baby endeavored to make another attempt to walk and he made quite good headway. Then he sat down to play with his toys on the grass while his little girl friend played, too. It was real pleasure for both of them.

"Did you hear from your sweater yet?" asked Nora, as they were seated and both knitting very contentedly.

"Not yet. Did you?" she replied.

"Hardly time yet to get an answer," said Nora.

"To whom will you send your other sweater when you get it made?" asked Mary.

"My missus wants me to send it to an officer at the front; one whom her husband knew when he was in command of his troops," replied Nora.

"I'll send my brother the next one, as we heard from him yesterday; now I know his address," said Mary.

"What did he say of the fighting?" asked Nora.

"He said he expected to be sent out to the front line trenches next week," replied Mary.

"Hope he don't get wounded," said Nora.

"That worried mother, but she is quite resigned now, and whatever happens she will try and not worry, though it would be a blow

to her if he were in the hospital or lying on the field of battle, dead," she replied.

"I understand the Governor is going to review the regiment this afternoon," said Nora as they waited until they heard the drum beat and soon caught sight of the soldiers as they entered the park. Thousands of spectators thronged the outlines of the meadows so as to give the marching guards the full space to themselves. Nora and Mary managed to get into a good position just in front of where the Governor would review the regiment, and they waited patiently for it to begin. It was very stirring as the band paraded up and down the field before the regiment; then the Governor gave an address that was well received; he spoke so very forcibly and with such clearness that most every one of the thousands that stood listening could catch nearly all of the address. Then when he was through the marching hosts were put through the review in fine style. It was not until the last man of the guards left the grounds, that both girls with their precious charges moved from the spot, so interested were they.

"When do you have an evening off?" asked Nora.

"Every Friday night my missus lets me have to myself," she replied.

"Maybe I can arrange to have that same evening off, so we can go out together," said Nora.

"If we can arrange it, let's go to the theatre together," suggested Mary.

"I'll let you know tomorrow morning," replied Nora, when they parted that day.

"There is a letter for you, Nora," said Pearl.

"Wonder who would write to me?" tearing open the letter and reading it. "The soldier got my sweater and he wants to thank me for it," said Nora, addressing Pearl.

"Good. Hope it fits him," answered Pearl.

"He said it was a perfect fit and that he is going to keep it well stored from the moths until the winter time comes, when he will be able to use it to good advantage," she replied.

"Has he a sweetheart?" asked Pearl.

"I judge he didn't have any from the way he talked when I last saw him. But he wants me to write him a return letter," replied Nora.

"How romantic," remarked Pearl, as she took baby and gave him the tub bath which he seemed to enjoy.

"Mamma, boat was nice on water," said baby in his broken way, for he had learned to talk and walk now quite well, so that he soon went all over the house.

"Baby must not get hurt," said Pearl, as she caught him in a dangerous position. "Nora, watch him, as I'm afraid he might fall, he's getting so very spry."

That night Nora wrote a nice long letter to her soldier friend and posted it; then she returned and got permission to have her night off changed to Friday so that she could meet Mary.

Pearl and Jack were like two young sweethearts just as much as at their first meeting, and to hear them talk to one another you could easily see they were mated well. He was always considering what was best for her happiness and the baby's welfare, and planning ahead like a man who had all his wealth tied up in the success of his undertaking.

"Do you think your mother will ever again get married?" asked Pearl.

"Can't tell. Stranger things than that have happened," he replied.

"My mother would not think of ever getting married again," said Pearl.

"Well, she is of a different disposition than Julia," said Jack.

"Wonder if she will marry the man she was so much interested in, the night she had that society affair at her home," asked Pearl.

"You mean Fred Butterworth?" asked Jack.

"That's the very one," responded Pearl.

"He is a widower with one daughter about eighteen years old—she is away attending a private seminary for girls," said Jack.

"I wouldn't be surprised to hear of her engagement to him, would you?" asked Pearl.

"No, it wouldn't surprise me," replied Jack.

"Suppose we stroll over to see her, now baby is asleep and Nora is here," suggested Pearl, as she arose to get ready.

"All right; let's go," he replied.

Arriving at the house they found our friend Mr. Butterworth there, for he had been a steady caller of late, so Jack was not surprised to see him.

"How are you, dear?" Julia asked Pearl, as she welcomed both in her usual affectionate way.

"Feeling excellent," replied Pearl.

"Good evening, Mr. Butterworth," greeted Jack, going into the parlor.

"Well, it's good to see you again," said Fred.

"Thanks; glad to see you," Jack replied.

Pearl came in with Julia and sat down.

"Alice will be home for her vacation tomorrow," remarked Fred.

"Suppose she will be glad to get back to the city for a time," said Pearl.

"No doubt," responded Fred.

"You have never met her, I believe," remarked Fred, looking at Pearl and Jack.

"No, I never had the pleasure," replied Jack.

"Neither have I," responded Pearl.

"Why not all come down to the house for dinner tomorrow," proposed Fred.

"We can go, can't we, dear?" replied Jack.

"Yes, it will be delightful," responded Pearl.

"We will have a quiet homecoming for her. She will graduate today and I suppose I'll have to consult her first, before deciding what she will do next; whether to take a special course of music or not, as it will be lonesome for her without her mother to talk to," he remarked.

"One needs companionship, especially as they get along in years," said Mrs. Carlton.

"I agree with you perfectly," replied Fred.

"Mr. Butterworth has asked me to be his wife," remarked Julia, addressing Jack and Pearl.

"Why, mother, this is news," exclaimed Jack, coming forward and taking his mother's hand.

"It's surprising to me," said Pearl, smiling.

"Hope you will be very happy," said Jack.

"Accept my congratulations," said Pearl, going over to kiss her.

"Thank you, dear ones," said Mrs. Carlton, as she addressed both.

"Mr. Butterworth, allow me to congratulate you," said Jack.

"May I offer mine, too," asked Pearl.

"Thank you both heartily," replied Fred.

"And we are going to live here," remarked Julia.

"When is the wedding to take place?" asked Pearl.

"Next Thursday evening at 8 o'clock, in this room," replied Julia.

"Alice will stay with us here, too," said Fred pleasantly.

"That will be nice," replied Jack.

After a very enjoyable evening the young couple went back to their apartment, feeling in a happy state of mind and the new events were not displeasing to them. It would be a companionship to Julia, as she was getting on in years and if she wished to live her own life to suit herself it was not Jack's wish to oppose anything that might stand in the way of her happiness.

"What business is he in?" asked Pearl.

"The lumber business," responded Jack.

"He looks prosperous," said Pearl.

"He is reputed to be worth two million dollars," replied Jack.

"That's good news," said Pearl.

"Wonder what Alice looks like," remarked Jack.

"Mr. Butterworth is quite a refined looking person," said Pearl.

"Then it follows that we may expect his daughter to be equally refined," responded Jack, laughingly, as he went to see how his son was resting.

Then they retired.

"Pearl, I'll get the car and we will drive down for mother, so she can go with us to the Butterworths tonight," as Jack proceeded to get ready for the trip next day.

Arriving at Mr. Butterworth's home they were introduced by him to a very charming young lady, who greeted them with a smile and grace that spoke volumes for the school Miss Alice had attended. She had brown hair and dark blue eyes, was rather slender in build and considered attractive in looks. She wore a very pretty evening gown, low neck, with a diamond necklace and pendant hanging about her neck, which had a very brilliant effect. Her garments were all of silk and of the latest pattern. After all had been comfortably seated Alice went to the piano and rendered some very fine music that delighted the callers and won the compliments that were bestowed upon her. She exhibited a rare talent for music and her father expected her to go to Europe to finish her education; she would be well-received as an artist; for one so young there was a good future for her.

"Do you take delight in your music?" asked Pearl.

"Every moment I play I seem to feel a master musician near me and feel as though I were impersonating them, or one of them, at least," she replied.

"Perhaps you are inspired by one of the

masters of music when you play," remarked Pearl.

"Do you really think it possible?" asked Alice.

"It is possible," replied Pearl, who had reasons to know from her occult knowledge.

"Wonderful, if it is so," said Alice.

"Do you ever see visions or travel when you are sleeping?" asked Pearl.

"Most every other night," responded Alice.

"Ever feel as if you want to play the piano when you are sitting quietly in thought and concentration?" asked Pearl.

"Often; so strong sometimes when I am studying I have to drop my book and sit down at the piano and it is no trouble to compose when I am in that state; only I don't write the music; then when I try to play it again I lose the theme. But if I concentrate then I usually can get in tune again with the sympathetic rhythm of the Master," replied Alice.

"You are a psychic and don't know your own power," said Pearl.

"I have heard of those strange people, but never imagined I was one; but now you have made it quite plain to me; perhaps I am one; I'll not deny it, for to be a good inspirational player is a help to me, and I'll study and see if I can bring out any more hidden powers to help me in the unfolding of my latent musical faculties and get inspiration

from the unseen forces who are devoted to music as an art," replied Alice.

"My dear, you are to be congratulated," said Julia.

"Thank you," responded Alice.

"You must come again," remarked Alice to Pearl and Jack, as they departed with Jack's mother, after spending a most enjoyable evening and thanking Mr. Butterworth most heartily.

"She is a charming young lady, and if she ever gets out into society she will have no end of admirers," said Julia to Jack, as they rode home.

"She is very interesting," replied Pearl.

"Dear, I want you to come over tomorrow and help me get ready for the wedding next Thursday," requested Julia.

"I'll be over in the morning," replied Pearl, as they left her in her own home and drove to their apartment.

"Things are moving along with some swiftness," remarked Pearl.

"Nothing surprises me any more," replied Jack, as he proceeded to retire for the night.

"I saw Cousin Charlie today," said Pearl.

"How is he doing?" asked Jack.

"Getting along very well. He is going to California next week," she replied.

"Lucky boy," said Jack.


"He leaves on Saturday evening, but he will be at Julia's wedding," remarked Pearl,

letting down her wealth of golden hair that made her look so beautiful as she stood leaning over the bed of her son to see if he was asleep and coming into the room where Jack was reading. She did not feel like going to bed right away, so she nestled in his lap and asked him to read to her the news of the daily evening papers.

Among other items of interest there appeared the announcement of the approaching marriage of Julia and Mr. Butterworth. Then Jack put down the paper and asked her if she had any more dreams to relate, which usually pleased Jack, as he was becoming interested in the wonderful revelations of Spiritual Science.

"I dreamed again last night," replied Pearl, as she nestled snugly in Jack's arms and proceeded to relate what she had dreamed.

"I saw a scene that looked to me as if it was in the time when Rome was in its glory; the architecture and beauty of the buildings were plainly seen; then on a marble structure with a flat top surface there appeared a beautiful white horse; he stepped out with a fine powerful stride, with head erect, and he walked all around the edge of the monument. I sent out the thought that he would fall down from this high pedestal and I no sooner thought it than down came this beautiful specimen of horseflesh, with a crash that seemed to break the animal's back. I



was so sorry it happened that I almost cried, when I heard a voice ask me this question:

“‘Do you wish to know why the animal fell?’

“‘I would like to know,’ I answered.

“‘Because you sent out the thought of fear that the animal would fall. This was shown to you to impress upon you the importance of your every thought, that there is a power in thought and if you concentrate your thoughts in certain directions the thought wave can be felt by the sensitive, whether it be animal or man, or decarnate spirit, it is all the same, for all life is spirit and when life departs from the body the spirit never dies; neither do your thoughts for the spirit of the animal was there and your thought was felt and brought disaster to the animal only in a form to show you that your thought power was greater than that of the animal and that your thoughts were not to be used henceforth but for the betterment of mankind, including everything that has life.’ Then he stopped speaking, and I then awakened and lay wondering what it all meant. Can you understand the meaning, dear?’” asked Pearl.

“‘I’ll sleep on it and maybe we can find more time later to discuss this very remarkable dream,’” said Jack, as he picked his wife up and carried her as though she were a child, and with a fond kiss as he laid her down and said good night.

CHAPTER XI.

CHARLES IN LOVE WITH ALICE

The wedding day had arrived and guests assembled. The house was decorated with plants; when the minister arrived and was ushered into the parlor.

Jack was very busy receiving when Charles Stafford arrived.

"Hello, Jack," he exclaimed.

"Glad to see you, Charles. Going away Saturday?" asked Jack, as he took his hat and put it up on the rack.

"Yes, my firm wants me to represent them in Los Angeles, California, and I have made all my arrangements," replied Charles.

"Going to settle down out there, I suppose," remarked Jack.

"For a while, anyway," responded Charles.

"Charles, I want you to meet Miss Butterworth; she has just returned from school and is to live here with her father," said Pearl.

"Delighted to meet you," answered Charles, as he was introduced to Alice.

The music of the orchestra played a very entrancing selection for the occasion and soon the wedding march began. Pearl was the bridesmaid for Julia and Jack was best man for Mr. Butterworth.

The bride to be was dressed in a cream colored silk gown, with a veil to match, very attractive; the groom was neatly dressed and smiling. Pearl had a gown of rose colored silk with shoes and ribbons to match, which made a very pretty effect, while Jack had his wedding suit on for the occasion.

They marched to the strains of the music and reached the minister who was ready to begin the ceremony, and when it ended, the close friends of the bride and groom were eager to congratulate them in the usual manner.

The wedding presents were very numerous, consisting of various useful household utensils, clocks, spoons and set of dishes, from Jack and Pearl, in fact, too numerous to mention, except one that seemed worth mentioning, a check for a hundred thousand dollars as a wedding present from the groom to the bride for her own self, to use as she pleased.

The couple were not to take any trip just at present, but later they planned to do so. Dancing was soon the enjoyment of the younger set and as Pearl and Jack had not had occasion to dance for some time they enjoyed it.

Charles Stafford soon found Alice for a partner and seemed to be charmed by her graceful manner and her dancing was delightful to Charles, who congratulated her, soon he and Alice went to another room near-

by; the cool evening air that was wafted in among the palms there afforded a cosy retreat behind their outstretched leaves. Charles sat down beside Alice on the lounge and was soon engaged in animated conversation with her—perhaps when he would be the groom and possibly she the bride, for Charles was very attentive and seemed to be well liked by the young lady, but up to this moment she had not taken him seriously; now he acted and talked as if some magic wand had passed over him and had that usual strange effect; when one meets his affinity one needs no prompting to show in face, action and words just what the heart wants to say, and Alice, too, seemed to meet the emergency with an equal amount of inspiration and tact. For it was her first real opportunity to meet anyone who stood any chance of success in regard to winning her affection.

“When I get things in good shape, then I could come on from California and get married,” he said, after half an hour of earnest pleading on his part to give him some consideration, for he only had a day or two in her company and he wanted to take every opportunity to press his suit.

“I’ll think it over and give you my decision later, perhaps tomorrow,” said Alice, thoughtfully.

They made a good looking pair as they were dancing a few minutes afterward, and

if appearances counted for anything one could see the answer Alice would make to Charles, which would be very favorable to him, as she took his arm and promenaded to several of her intimate friends and introduced him as a friend, and then took him to her father and presented Charles to him, whom, it seems, was not in the room when he had been introduced to the other guests earlier in the evening.

"Father, Mr. Stafford is going to California," remarked Alice, to open the conversation, after presenting Charles.

"Indeed, going on business or pleasure?" asked Mr. Butterworth.

"Business—as a representative of the firm," responded Charles.

"A very promising position, I should think," said Mr. Butterworth.

"I hope it will turn out that way," replied Charles.

"In my lumber business I have representatives in different cities," he replied.

"And in Los Angeles?" asked Charles.

"Yes, we have a Mr. John Redmond who represents us there," he replied.

"Would you give me a letter of introduction to him?" asked Charles.

"Certainly, with pleasure; I'll send it to you tomorrow," said he, taking down the number in his notebook.

"I'm a cousin of Pearl," said Charles,

"Sort of distant relative," he replied.

"Quite remote, though," remarked Charles, as he excused himself to keep a dancing engagement with one other partner whom he had pledged to dance with.

"Father, I want to ask your opinion of Mr. Stafford," asked Alice, as she found a moment alone with her father.

"Fine young fellow, well behaved, and I dare say will some day be successful," he replied.

"He asked me to marry him," said Alice.

"What did you say?" he replied.

"I told him I would tell him later," replied Alice.

"Rather sudden on such short acquaintance, don't you think?" he asked.

"But you see he intends to wait until perhaps several months, until he gets well settled in California, before he will marry," replied Alice, who seemed to argue in his favor.

"Make no mistake, dear, for it is a very serious move," he replied.

"But will I tell him 'yes' with your consent?" asked Alice.

"It remains with you, if your heart prompts you to accept, then I'll give my consent gladly," he replied.

So the matter seemed settled as far as her father was concerned.

"Dear, I'll see you tomorrow," said Charles, after all the guests had departed and she stood talking to him at the door.

"Good night," said she, as she permitted him to kiss her hand as he departed.

She then went to her own room to think over the new problem that had come into her life; things were moving along at a rapid gait for her since she had left the seminary and she wanted to make sure of herself before she gave Charles his answer tomorrow when he would call.

She retired to dream perhaps, as most young folks do when they are about to decide the one great question for better or for worse.

"What do you think of Charles taking such a fancy to Alice?" asked Pearl.

"Perfectly natural," responded Jack.

"Do you think they will become engaged?" she asked, wondering if it were possible.

"Wouldn't be surprised to hear of the announcement at any time," replied Jack.

"They would make a good couple, don't you think?" asked Pearl.

"Very well mated, I should say," he replied.

As he sat down in the big armchair Pearl busied herself in getting into her loosely fitting garments and was soon ready to tell her husband her nightly chats concerning her affairs during the interval of the twenty-four hours preceding.

"Your mother looked beautiful tonight," remarked Pearl.

"Hope she will be satisfied with the step she has taken," he replied.

"Both seem really in love with one another," said Pearl.

"Perhaps it is to be a blessing to both, let us hope," he replied.

"I never told you a dream that I had some time ago, before we went to Atlantic City," remarked Pearl.

"What was it about?" asked Jack.

"I thought I was walking in the park one evening just before dark and I saw a man who was walking along the path, gazing up into the heavens as if he was very much interested in what he saw, and when I turned my eyes in that direction I saw a formation of aeroplanes coming from the distance at a high speed and immediately I heard a voice which said: 'The Boches are coming,' which sent all of us seeking shelter before the expected bombardment took place.

"I saw them so very distinctly; it must have been a warning from my guide to let me know the enemy was coming and the thought has just come to me that the message has been partly fulfilled already, for they have come to our shores, Jack, with the submarines and have sunk many vessels and sent the occupants adrift in boats; this warning came before we had the slightest intimation that the U-boats were off our shores. Wasn't that a strange dream?" asked Pearl.


"I should say it was, as particulars in the

papers lately seem to prove your predictions were correct, except that instead of aeroplanes they came in submarines," said Jack.

"Maybe they will come in aeroplanes later; who can tell?" replied Pearl.

"Now I remember you did mention that dream some days ago before they appeared," remarked Jack.

"I wasn't sure that I did, but I was impressed to tell you tonight so as not to let all the effect of my dream go by without having the truth shown that our spirit friend can foretell these coming events and impress it upon the sensitives—but it is so hard to make anyone in authority take any notice of these occult forces and the good they might do if properly utilized. Let us hope soon such sensitives will be given a chance to develop their power the same as any other study, then suitable institutions could be erected and those who had any special psychic power could be housed and fed and all the beautiful grounds surrounding the institution could make it a place for the study of psychology alone and draw out the hidden inner Power that many possess, but few know how to cultivate; what an advance to science this would be if some donations would be made towards building up such an institution; then the results derived would be well worth the effort and expense of the trial, to say the least; why not give it a fair show and thorough investigation. No doubt



much good can be derived from such an institution," replied Pearl, who seemed to get the words that she spoke from an unseen force, who took the opportunity to give expression through the tongue of this fair instrument.

"Why, dear, you are quite a lecturer," said Jack.

"Am I, dear? It seems I had to say it, as though I had to shout it from the housetops; that's the way I feel, anyhow," as she put her arm about his neck, and as the other arm was drawn in a similar position she drew him closer and kissed him affectionately.

"Little sweetheart, it's time to put you to bed," said Jack, as she still clung to his neck.

"All right, dear, I am ready," she replied, as she permitted him to carry her to her bed, as he usually did on such occasions, and with a fond kiss he said good night and retired.

Charles Stafford called on Alice the next day and his brain was in a whirl, as this visit meant so much to him, for today the fates would decide and he hoped they would be in his favor. Alice answered the bell in person and as he stepped across the threshold he felt quite pleased to note the smile of pleasure and congenial greeting, that gave him good cause to breathe more easily.

"Give me your hat," she remarked.

"Thanks," he replied.

"Won't you come into the parlor?" she asked.

"With pleasure," he replied.

Taking seats they both seemed to hesitate to open the subject that was uppermost in their minds.

"Have you any engagement for tomorrow evening?" asked Charles.

"No, I haven't," she replied.

"I leave on the nine o'clock train for California by the New York Central, stopping in Chicago, then to Denver, Salt Lake City and Los Angeles," said Charles.

"How long will it take you to get to the Coast?" asked Alice.

"I think it will take about seven and a half days, including stopovers," he replied.

"It must be delightful to live out there, especially in the winter time," remarked Alice.

"This will be my second trip to the Coast and from what I saw on my first trip I should judge it would be especially fine in Los Angeles, as the milder weather prevails there; more so than in the northern part," he replied.

"It would be nice if one were situated in a financial way; then they could live in the fine residential part of the city and have their own automobile, etc.," replied Alice.

"That is the only way to live," said Charles, who wondered if she expected him to have all these luxuries.

"Papa bought me a new car today, all for my own private use," she said.

"That's fine," replied Charles, taking courage again.

"And he told me that on my wedding day he would have a pleasant surprise for me," she said, smiling.

"Then you told him?" said he.

"Yes. I asked his advice and he said it was for me to decide," she replied, blushing.

"You will marry me then, dear?" said he, coming over to her side and resting his hand on her shoulder.

"Are you sure you love me?" asked Alice.

"How can you doubt it?" he replied, as he took her hand in his and drew her to his bosom.

She seemed to rest very contentedly in his embrace and they sealed their engagement with a kiss.

"I am the happiest man in this world," exclaimed Charles, as he took leave of his fiancée some time later.

"I'll go down to the train with Jack and Pearl," she called after him.

"Yes, do," he replied, and was gone.

Alice busied herself about the house, feeling joyous with her bright prospects, and she went to her mother and told her of her engagement.

"Hope you will be happy," she said.

"I'll call up father and tell him," remarked Alice, as she took down the receiver.

"It's all settled, father, I'm to be married," she exclaimed.

"Well, dear, I hope you have made no mistake in your choice," he replied.

"I'm very happy, father," remarked Alice.

"That's a more satisfactory answer than any other you could give me, dear," said he.

"I'll tell you more tonight," she replied, hanging up the receiver, feeling that now she had made her decision she felt supremely happy, and would set about getting things in shape so, when Charles would come for her, she would be ready.

"Tell Miss Alice that the car is ready to go to the station," said Jack to Sarah, the maid, as he waited at the door on Saturday evening for her to come down so they could see Charles off on his trip west.

Driving to the station they soon found Charles, who, with his friends, was there. After introductions were over the natural impulse of Charles' heart sought a few moments' private talk with his fiancée and it was with a heart full of happiness that he bid all good bye as the train pulled out.

"You are to be congratulated, dear, for Charles is a fine young man," said Pearl, as they were driven homeward.

"I realize it and have made my choice," replied Alice.

"When is the wedding day?" asked Pearl.

"Two months from today," she replied.

"He is coming back for you, then?" asked Pearl.

"Yes, we are to be married in the city," she answered.

"Anything that I can do to help get your costume ready, I gladly offer my aid and suggestions," said Pearl.

"I'll call on you often," she replied.

"Good night," said she to both, as Jack saw her safely inside her home.

"I wonder if they can be any happier than we are," asked Jack, looking at Pearl.

"Not more so, at any rate," she replied.

Then she went into the room where her baby boy lay awake and taking him up she brought him into the room where her husband was.

"How is my baby feeling?" she asked, as she sat him on her knee and told her husband to sit down a while, as she wanted to rock the baby to sleep, so she sang a gentle lullaby after comfortably folding the little one to her breast and soon he was fast asleep.

She took him to his couch and with a mother's love she tucked the baby under the cover, so no draft or night air might harm him, then returned to her husband and as usual she nestled in his strong arms and they were happy and contented with their choice, and thankful that their happiness had come to stay.

"Any new dreams, dear?" asked Jack.

"Yes, I remember one that I'll tell you

that might have some hidden meaning," she replied. "My astral spirit was taken away so I found myself floating in the air and it was a very delightful sensation to find that I could relax all the nervous tension that usually comes over one when they are suspended from the ground; soon I found myself in a room and I floated over a cradle that stood in the room and in the cradle was a baby like our baby. I looked at it for some time; then as I looked its face seemed to change to a middle-aged person, then to one who looked very old. This all happened as I was floating over the cradle. That was all I remembered about it."

"That was a strange dream," said Jack.

"I guess it meant from the cradle to the grave, that is, I am impressed to say that was the meaning," Pearl remarked.

"That's true of all mortals, but not true of the soul, for it never dies; but I am told it can come back and reincarnate in another body or take up another body at time of conception, so that when the soul does take up a new body all the experiences of the previous reincarnation are as dead to him but still are all there in his aura and are part of his progression, for if one has been here before that experience would hinder him by having that knowledge before him while he inhabits this later body, so the natural solution is that the brain is the controlling instrument that governs the body; yet the soul

actually records all the thought, deeds, experiences and emotions of this life and when the time comes for the soul to separate from the body, then a full record is made upon the soul. Yet at the time the brain seems to be the seat of memory, but when death comes it is found useless. But action or thought or education learned while in the body is never lost, for the soul remembers all and in the course of time it has access to the experiences it had while in this life, for its progression, and at some future time that same soul could take up another earthly body to gain further experience by coming to earth again if necessary, for soul or spirit is from God—indestructible, immortal, and is part of the great cosmic whole that never had a beginning nor never will have an ending, progression for every soul either here or hereafter is the law in spirit realm,” said Pearl.

“Once more you surprise me,” said Jack.

“It’s no trouble to tell you all this,” she replied.

“Don’t it make you weak to get so deeply into the vibrations of the Spiritual Science?” asked Jack.

“No, I always gain strength when I am used as a messenger to transmit these great truths to mankind,” she replied, as she nestled calmly and happily in her husband’s embrace, who tenderly caressed her and thought heaven had sent him a beautiful

angel in the form of a wife. For after all angels were human beings once upon a time and had risen to a high state of progression so that they are in the highest spheres and resemble the perfect ideal that can be obtained through endless progression—attainment and unfoldment of all the attributes that are lying dormant in every soul only waiting the sunshine of truth and the watering of spiritual love to come to the surface and transform the soul of the ignorant to the highest and brightest progressed soul that will be found sitting at the footstool of God and learning wisdom from Him.

That is the birthright of every soul that ever lived that some time somewhere all will unfold like the most beautiful flower and come into their inheritance; that is the law.

Jack, as usual, kissed his wife and prayed that the heavenly visitor would use him some day to be a message bearer as the prophets were used long ago.

The next two months found Pearl often helping Alice and in due time she had everything ready and Charles and she were married, and he was surprised to learn of the generous gift from her father of a check of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, which was given to her outright for her own separate fund, to use as she wished.

She had her automobile shipped out to California and they purchased a very nice

bungalow and furnished it completely and they are still wondering if any more good luck could come to them as they are perfectly satisfied. And some time in the winter season they expect to have all their New York relatives that want to come to visit them and they will be given a hearty welcome, as Charles is the successful manager of a growing concern and some day he will be a stockholder and who knows but what he will be the proud father of a happy loving family. Such should be the ending of such a career where brains and honest effort with a heart full of love should find a wealth of satisfaction that would carry him over the rough places to complete success.

John Jr. could speak very distinctly now and could walk about without any assistance and it was a treat to see with what love his parents exhibited for his every wish and need; they would take him to the moving pictures and to the park and he would sometimes be taken to promenade the Drive with them; one had to keep a sharp lookout to see that no harm came to him with so many vehicles going up and down the Drive.

As he grew older he seemed to resemble his father more and more, as it was Pearl's wish that he should grow up to be like Jack. When Pearl took him to Julia he was master of the house, for his every wish was gratified and all the toys that one could think of were given him, but she had to guard against


overpetting that sometimes is not good for a child, who takes the reins into his own hands and wants to rule the household; but not so with John Jr., for his mother knew the danger and she had instructed Nora, their maid, just how to proceed, and to keep the child always in good control, but not to domineer over him but teach him to be kind to others and to the dumb animals; this is the age where the child, if properly taught and shown the value of reaching out for the best in the early years, then in after years it will be no task to reach the height that every man should try to attain; that is, to be a beacon light so that he can be a help to others in the perplexing problems of this life that confront us as a nation and as individuals.

CHAPTER XII.

ON THE PICTURESQUE HUDSON

Delightful Autumn days came when it was a pleasure to take a long drive in their automobile, and with a lunch basket safely tucked in the back part of the automobile they set out for a trip to the country; the party consisted of Jack and Pearl, Nora and the baby, besides the chauffeur, who was allowed to share in these outings as he was a very courteous young man and never abused the confidence and familiar attitude shown him upon numerous occasions, but he was always treated with respect and encouraged to go to the evening classes in the Young Men's Christian Association twice a week, which he found after a time to be of considerable value to him, thanks to the generosity and thoughtfulness of his employers. It would be well if all others would be as kind and considerate with their help.

After motoring for two hours along the course of the Hudson River they soon found a suitable location where they could alight and stretch their legs and have a bite to eat under the shade trees that abounded in that locality; they were near the river front and their view was superb; they could see the beautiful Hudson River lying below them



and the majestic hills that towered so high above that winding peaceful river that is world-renowned for its scenic effects, and the cool breezes were a tonic for one's tired nerves, especially those who are busy every day of the week, as Jack was since he took charge of his father's estate.

"Isn't it perfectly grand?" remarked Pearl.

"Delightful, and look at that sail boat; how majestically she sails and that steamer touches up the view to perfection," said Jack, who had at one time studied art and knew the value of the view he now beheld.

"Baby want something to eat?" asked Pearl, as she sat John Jr. beside her on the green grass that was used as a substitute for upholstered chairs at home, and this simple repast out there in the shade that morning would always be remembered by those who took the trip; such a pleasure to see them, and baby was delighted as he talked and laughed at the manoeuvres of George, the chauffeur, who seemed to take great delight in trying to amuse the baby, as he often took the baby out for a drive with Nora as nurse, when Pearl was busy at something else; so he became quite a favorite of the baby's.

After resting for almost an hour they packed up and were soon on the way back to the city and it was such a benefit to all to have the opportunity to take such excursions out into nature's woodland, where wild

flowers grow abundantly all along the roadway, where rustic bridges cross over a running stream and where summer homes are seen and the cattle grazing on a hundred hills; then is the time when, if one is a student of nature and a lover of the beautiful flowers, one feels so much elevated in soul ecstasy from the very fact of being near nature's own flowery kingdom and inhaling the very life of the sweet perfume that is prevalent where the roses bloom.

"We must take these trips often," said Jack, as he proceeded to carry baby into the house, and when John Jr. put his little arms about him he hugged his precious pet to his bosom.

"Did baby have a nice ride?" asked Jack.

"Pretty flowers and cows, too," said the baby quite plainly, and after his father let him down to the floor he picked up his little wooden boat.


"Boat go on water," said baby.

"Yes, dear, don't you remember the boat you saw this morning on the river?" asked Jack.

"Baby wants boat with white wings."

"Oh, you mean sails," replied Jack, remembering they had seen the yacht on the river. "Papa will get one for you tomorrow."

"Nora and baby go to park lake and sail boat," said baby.




"Do you think it wise to have Nora do that?" asked Pearl doubtfully.

"She might, if she is careful," replied Jack. "A string could be tied to it and let the wind blow it out and then she could haul it back again when it had gone far enough," he suggested, as he was always willing to encourage baby to use his brains in the right way, and if Jack did not comply with baby's request then the thought that baby expressed and the real desire he manifested in asking for the boat with wings should be carried out as an object lesson for the baby to grow in knowledge, and if all mothers and fathers could be only wise enough to see these traits or possibilities in their children and try and cultivate them in their early years so that the tendency of the child will be to grow stronger along the natural desired and unfolding attributes and power he may show by giving heed to these simple rules.

"Let's take a trip up the Hudson on the boat," exclaimed Jack some days later as he took a day from his office to devote to his family.


"Such an ideal day," replied Pearl, as she hurried to get ready and have Nora get baby ready.

In a short time the automobile was carrying them to the pier, where in a few minutes the boat was taking on many passengers for the trip.



Jack and his family got comfortable seats on the upper deck under the awning and were enjoying the delights of this wonderful trip up the picturesque river, with its mountains and its wonderful palisades that seem to be a sheer drop of hundreds of feet straight down from the top, as though some great saw had cut straight through the rock; it might have been done at the time of the Glacial period that caused these formations, and to the ice gorges that probably came down the river, with the tide going back and forth, grinding the sides like sand paper and in the course of time have a telling effect, as the results are here to be seen.

Baby seemed to enjoy the trip and every time he saw a boat pass or a yacht sail by he would cry out and express much joy, so the lessons Nora taught him, as she did on several occasions (after Jack had purchased the little toy yacht) and as she tried to tell baby just how the wind was used to move the yacht, that baby got to know the difference between power boats and sail boats and to his father's delight he manifested a strong desire to see how the engine made the wheel go round, which Jack tried to show him so his brain could comprehend such an intricate problem; but Jack was patient and he hoped his son might become a great inventor or an instrument for the benefit of humanity that would be worth while, and not simply to live, work and die without leaving to the



world some remembrance of his having traversed this mundane sphere.

The boat reached West Point and here the party decided to visit the Military Academy, which was soon reached, and quite a number of others got off to go to these most interesting training grounds, which at this time is busy training the selected youths to be officers in our army, at the time when we are engaged so very actively with the enemy in France.

The review had just begun when they were comfortably seated to watch this magnificent body of young men go through their drill. Such masterly bearing was shown in their line and every order of the commanding officer was followed out to perfection, and the trip is well worth the time for anyone who loves the military life to witness and it pleased Jack, who had been there himself some years before, and after the drill he was allowed special privileges and he took his family all over the grounds and to the room he had occupied when attending the school.

Going back to the boat they were soon on the return voyage and the scenery seemed to take on an added beauty as the sun's rays struck at an angle on the hilltops and on the water, and it seemed after this perfect day nothing was lacking to give to each participant a feeling of restfulness and rever-

ence for the handiwork of nature, as seen on this trip.

And to be home again it seemed to Pearl she was blessed in having such a very delightful abode where love and harmony prevailed.


CHAPTER XIII.

A MONTH IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

November came, and the trip to California was planned to occupy a month's stay in Los Angeles and vicinity.

Jack and the family, with Nora and the chauffeur, were to go and the car was to be shipped so as not to crowd the other automobile, and it was with glad hearts they set out on their long journey by train, stopping over at several points of interest to break the monotony of the ride. At last they reached the prospering city and were met at the station by Charles and Alice with the automobile and were taken to their beautiful home to be comfortably and pleasantly entertained while sojourning in Southern California.

As Jack and Pearl had been in Pasadena on their previous trip they visited Los Angeles then only for a day or two and when they drove up to the bungalow both were greatly surprised to see the beautiful grounds surrounding the home; a row of palms bordered the drive from the front gate entrance and beautiful flower beds were artistically placed in the garden that completely surrounded the house, which made a very pleasing effect and enhanced the value



of the property considerably. The dwelling itself was a nine-room, two-story bungalow with spacious porches in front with vines clinging to the lattice work that concealed the space underneath and one could see from the bedroom windows several orange trees that were growing and the branches almost reached the windows, where, if one cared to they could pluck some of the most luscious fruit, that has a wide reputation for its excellent qualities.

There were six bedrooms, parlor, dining room, kitchen and bath and ample room for all the party to be comfortably cared for, and to be free to roam about and to go at one's will, so after a day of rest they felt ready to see some of the sights.

"Jack, we will leave baby with Nora today, as Alice has planned a trip to Mount Lowe," remarked Pearl.

"That will be a treat," he replied.

"Such a lovely day for the trip," said Charles.


"Better take your wraps along, for it may be cool at sunset," Alice suggested.

As they took the automobile to go to the station they were soon aboard the long electric cars that left at certain hours of the day for this trip, and as the cars traveled through the lovely country thereabout, they could smell the sweet perfume of the flowers that were budding, as the first rain of the season had fallen just a few days before.

Winter time in California, especially the first of the year, then is the time the flowers bloom and thousands of roses on bushes so close together could be seen that it looked a block long one mass of the most gorgeous cluster of roses, and the fine perfume coming from them makes one think of heaven; then past orange groves they fairly flew until they reached the base of the mountain; then the gradual ascent was made on the electric cars that seemed to zigzag up the side of the mountain where, if one looked out of the windows straight down, they could see the same track they had been over a few moments before, and if the car should jump the track it might fall many hundreds of feet below, but the safety devices are numerous and no accident has happened yet that gave any trouble and as long as the electricity held out they moved forward and upward at a fair speed; then about three-quarters of the way up the passengers were told to alight; then the guide came forward and put a certain number in each car that went up the steep incline that looked almost straight up the side of the mountain; about fifteen persons could go in each car, and it was open in front and the seats were arranged like a reviewing stand, one tier higher than the other; so Jack and his party were ushered into one car with some others to fill up the seats and the steel ropes started to lift the car just like an elevator, only

it clung to the side of the mountain; as it ascended slowly Jack didn't feel the change of atmosphere until it got to a certain height, then it became so marked that he felt as though a heavy pressure was put on the top of his head, but this only lasted for a few seconds; then it all cleared away and now they were riding upward beyond the clouds, thousands of feet above sea level, until the car reached a platform where they all got out, and then another climb was still before them; some took horses and rode up the balance of the way and some walked up, but Jack and his party took the horses and they had the time of their lives astride those animals; at last they reached as high as they could go and a large hotel came into view; this was very acceptable to those who had walked, but all seemed in a good jolly frame of mind and they didn't mind for the sight was well worth the trip; when once a person reached the top they could see for many miles, the villages, cities, orange groves and the most enjoyable scenic effect anyone could wish for; but first of all Jack and his party had provided a luncheon, for they knew it would take considerable time to make the trip and one could find plenty of room to eat and make hot coffee on the rest room stove that was used exclusively for those who made the trip.

Jack had his field glasses with him and as he and Pearl sat upon a rock and surveyed



all the surrounding country they could see Pasadena and the very hotel they had stopped at, from this lofty seat, while Charles and Alice were evidently enjoying the trip as two young lovers might be expected to act with the inspiring picture before them. They sat there perhaps for an hour in peaceful meditation, not caring if others might see them, as Charles had his arm about Alice and she looking occasionally over to Jack and Pearl to see if she could steal a kiss while no one was looking; so these four happy souls were thinking only of their good fortune, of how the gods of fate had been so good to them as to place them in the position they found themselves at this moment. Was it luck, as some people might say, or was it all brought about by some mysterious spiritual force that moves so silently, that guides each individual who cares to be led by impression to follow a certain line of action that will bring about a meeting with a certain one whom the spirit guides have selected for each one in their immediate charge? This is possible, from what we know of psychic law; and if one reads his Bible it will prove this statement, for was it not so in the case of many of the Prophets, who, by following their inspiration, would tell the people to go to a certain place and there they would find certain people. Christ told his disciples to go and at a certain place they would find a colt tied, and for them to bring it to him, and

they found it as He said they would; also when Paul was struck blind on his way to Damascus he was told to go to a certain place and his eyesight would be restored; some people were told to go and wash in a certain pool and they would be healed of their diseases. The woman of Endor told Saul that on the morrow he would lose his life and it was true, so how can anyone fail to see the significance of this spirit force pervading every living being, but more noticeable in those who have a mediumistic development—we know these Sensitives can be told to go by impression to a certain place and then certain conditions will develop which will lead up to some wonderful climax in one's life that it seems, had they not gone there, then it could never have happened.



Why did Jack take the trip that brought Pearl into his life? Was some great plan arranged for these two souls to meet as they did? I believe it is possible. One night I had a vision presented to me which will speak for itself.

I seemed to be in an office where someone handed me a letter and asked me if I knew who the lady was that the letter was directed to. I took the letter and could plainly see the name of Irene Lewis. I thought a while and did not seem to remember anyone by that name; then I gave the letter back to the party and said I had never met the lady, when a Voice came from somewhere, saying:

"You don't know her now but you will meet her soon." Then I awoke and wondered if I would meet her; then, when I got up I recorded the vision in my diary and wrote after the entry this question: "Wonder who she is?" after writing her name as I saw it on the envelope.

About two weeks afterwards I attended a church service and I noticed two young ladies looking at me as I sat listening to the lecturer, but I paid no more attention to them until I saw them after the services in company with a friend of mine who introduced both young ladies to me and I was surprised to learn that one of the ladies' names was Irene Lewis and this evening was the first time I had ever seen her and the first time she ever saw me. So here was the way I met a lady friend who afterwards proved my best friend in many ways; one who had been such a help and comfort to me. Was that spiritual guidance in my meeting Irene pre-arranged by my unseen spirit guides? I believe so, from what I know of psychic laws.

But don't blame all your misfortunes on the spirit world if they came upon you; perhaps if you had taken the impression you had before disaster fell upon you, then things would have been different; as your impressions may have been given to you from a spiritual source and you threw them aside



and went in the opposite direction; hence your misfortune.

But to return to the party. They soon got back to the incline and were slowly let down to the car line and then the car ride down grade all the way; one was thrilled to think of the terrific speed the car would go with such a steep grade; but they all landed safely and they were soon speeding homeward to talk over the day's outing and to feel they had been nearer to heaven than ever before on that high mountain.

Next day they went to Hollywood, a town just outside of Los Angeles and a very wealthy one, with many fine residences, and here is where one of the leading moving picture companies produces some of their plays; so Jack and his party were given permission to go in and wander from one scene to another, for here the sunshine is a big asset for the production of moving pictures, as there is no rainfall all the summer months and even in the winter months there is just about as much sunshine here as elsewhere, and the rains bring out the flowers. It was perfectly delightful to see how all the effects of each scene were explained to the party by the guide who showed them all the interesting items concerning the production of photo plays; the rooms of houses you see in the pictures are not rooms but only one part of a room that is exposed to the camera and the other half is air space and the light effect is

regulated by the canvas overhead, just like a photograph gallery, only the pictures are motion pictures and are the exact reproduction of the acts they saw performed while at this studio. The smoke screen was shown and explained and many other items which are too numerous to mention, but the laughable part was seen when they went to a scene (that was only one of many); here was a man suspended in mid air but in fact he was suspended on a wire that was painted black that did not show in the picture and it was a mystery to those who looked at the picture and they wondered how it was done; then the knockabout artists made the party laugh heartily with their recklessness that it was a wonder they did not severely hurt themselves, but it didn't seem to harm them as they conversed with Jack's party and they are always trying out every idea that seems to strike them when producing the play; then when one scene is photographed with the actors doing their part, if every detail is correct then they pass on to the next scene, but sometimes they go over a scene six or seven times before they get it correct, while at other times the first trial is enough, if the act is not a difficult one.

This was real pleasant to Jack and his party, so they at last reached home and decided to take a good rest and enjoy the pleasant evening with its bracing air, for no matter how hot it is in the day time the nights

are cool here on these December days, while back in New York perhaps there was a snow storm with the temperature of ten degrees below zero.


The next day the party went to the beach and there is where Jack and Pearl enjoyed the water, dressed in their own bathing suits, which they had brought with them, and little John Jr. was given a bathing suit, too, and as he sat in the sand with a shovel and pail he was in his glory, while Charles and Alice were plunging in the surf with as much pleasure as anyone possibly could enjoy themselves; then a spin home brought them over the finest macadamized roads in the country for automobiling. Everyone who can afford a car seems to have one here, in this fine climate, where no snow ever falls, the year round, and where everyone seems to take things quietly, somewhat differently from the busy cities in the East and Middle West.

A few days afterwards the party took a trip by train to Riverside, one hundred and forty miles from Los Angeles, a very pretty city with thousands of population. Here were beautiful homes and streets and each home had abundant space for flowers to grow all around the house which were seen to adorn every home, and the palms, those stately plants, were very prominent all over the city, and the party went to see the show place of the city, the Glenwood Mission Inn,

where one can spend his time and money very pleasantly. Every room in this hotel is patterned after the old style several centuries ago, with its long hinges on the doors, and the spinning wheel; in fact, one feels as if they were living in that long ago time when America was first inhabited by the pioneers, or in the Colonial times.

Then the party went out to the Sherman Institute, a Government school where they give a free education to the Indians, and it was a very interesting school, being conducted on the order of our public school system, with class rooms and grades from the primary to the highest, and Jack was surprised to see the progress the Indian boys and girls had made; they were quick and it proved to him that education is a godsend to the Indians; as the students graduated they could be fitted to take any of the positions that the white boy or girl holds; here they are taught farming and cultivation of all kinds of plants and trades for the boys and domestic science for the girls, and their place of abode is a large building adjoining the school, up-to-date in all equipments for safety and comfort for the students.

From here the party was taken out to the orange grove which covered eighteen miles of orange trees, all bearing fruit, and it was a most delightful trip to see the golden fruit hanging in clusters from the branches; a sample of the fruit was given to each of the



party and it was found to be luscious and wholesome.

Then to Smiley Heights at Redlands, where the most beautiful arrangements of flowers and plants are to be seen in the gardens, where at the death of the owner the grounds were thrown open to the public; so here one may wander through this flower land of beauty, reminding one of the picture of the spirit heavens, where the souls of the mortals wander in such luxuriant growth of flowers; but it is not so in all cases, as only to those who attain their spiritual development is it possible to reach the upper sphere, but progression beyond the grave goes on just the same and every one will ultimately reach from the lowest sphere to the highest, or from the sphere he first enters when his spirit departs from the body to the next highest sphere, then to the next, until he can go on to the very highest by soul progression; there is no limit to one's attainment, which is a blessed thought for all of us to strive here while still in the body for this unfoldment of the soul forces; then it will be easier for us when we go over to the other side, where we can go right on where we left off here.

Soon after the party was ready to return to Los Angeles and in due time they reached their home and felt much gratified with this very interesting side trip.

Long Beach by automobile was next vis-


ited several days afterward and one was impressed when entering this wonderful city with its good streets, elegant dwellings, with its clinging vines and flowers in abundance, its good hotels and a wonderful beach, where bathing is possible all the year around; the accommodations in one large ocean front hotel are of the very best and to sit on the veranda this day in December, as the party did, one can hardly realize they are still in the United States, but away off in some tropical climate instead. Here is where many New York society people come for the winter; also to other California resorts like Pasadena, Los Angeles, Riverside and many other places which give a guarantee that no snowstorms will come, no zero weather ever visits this sunny Southern California.

The trip lasted all the day and the party went bathing and they enjoyed the dip in the Pacific Ocean, where the breakers roll in on the beach to the delight of all as they swam through them and over them like a school of porpoise basking in the warmth of a July day, instead of the middle of winter.

Back to Los Angeles the air does one good to travel in the open; there they arrived in the evening and contented themselves to sit down and take a good rest and play with baby, who did not go with the others on these trips; but several days afterwards the party went to San Diego by automobile and one can't do justice to the trip simply to say

the trip was well worth seeing, but with the good meals and the fine scenery they all enjoyed it to the fullest extent and arrived some hours later and went to Del Coronado Hotel on the beach; here was the winter resort of many of the Eastern bankers and others who can find time from their duties to take a month or two vacation and visit this famous resort; at the height of the season it is well filled and Jack found many friends among the guests. Here the party decided to stay several days before returning to Los Angeles and they made the best of their visit by going into the surf every day and sitting on the beach with baby, who seemed to enjoy it so much; and the dances in the spacious ballroom; the fine orchestra and the very excellent table this hotel is noted for, and made their visit most enjoyable, together with a side trip to Point Loma and the sights of San Diego, with its most interesting resident sections, a most delightful place to live, each bungalow having ample room for the flowers to grow most luxuriantly and the vines to cluster around the porches; then the party went to Tia Juana, a town in Mexico not far distant; here they found a fort made of clay and some soldiers guarding its approach; there was a game of chance for those who cared to stop and see the games and put down some money with the odds against them, as the wheel was turned briskly.

Jack and his party did not participate but



took a walk around the town to see the houses made of dried clay and to study the character of the Mexicans who inhabited this town.

Coming back, the party had to pass the Internal Revenue Collector to see if any duty was to be levied for their purchases which anyone might care to make while in the Mexican town. Several trinkets were bought and in a few minutes they were allowed to proceed on their journey back to the hotel.

Next day the party went to Old Town in the suburbs, to see the marriage place of Ramona. This is supposed to be the spot where the author of *Ramona* got the inspiration for the well-known book by that name. It is a quaint structure of one story, with a number of rooms on all three sides, each room containing many historical relics of the time when this place was built; and in the garden, which is in the centre, are the neatly arranged beds of flowers and plants, with shade trees, and conspicuously seen in the middle of this garden is the well that bears such a prominent part of the story; it is made of sandstone and by constant use for many generations back the stone has been worn away, which seems to bear out the statement as to its age; then within two hundred yards of this building stands a flagpole and the American flag flying to the breeze; and nearby is an inscription to inform all who read that on this spot there was an engagement fought

with the Republic of Mexico in the war when Maximilian was dethroned—quite an interesting trip to anyone who has the time.

Then the party was taken to the Exposition Grounds and buildings which the people of San Diego had erected under their own expense and supervision and they were delighted with the substantial buildings seen on every hand and the fine viaduct that spanned the deep ravine. This structure makes a fine approach to the scene and they were just in time to see a regiment of infantry drill on its spacious grounds, an elegant setting, just as the sun cast its rays over those white columns and made one think that soon these same youths would be in the battle line, fighting for the cause of liberty and right, ultimately ending with a glorious victory.

Jack was intensely interested as it reminded him of his own troops, the ones he ordered to go over the top, and how they obeyed with such a will that nothing could stop them. He wondered if Henry Woodard was still in the trenches.

The trip back to the hotel was soon made, where Jack was notified that there was a telegram awaiting him, as he had left word with the housemaid to forward any mail to him. Jack opened it and found it was a report from the assistant manager, who had been sending Jack a report every week; this was one of them which stated that all was

running smoothly and for him not to worry, as he had the situation well in hand.

After spending another day here they returned to Los Angeles and planned to go to Catalina Islands for a trip; they found upon entering the steamer that quite likely someone of the party would be sea sick, but they came through with all the party feeling fine. They registered at the best hotel on the island, at Avalon, and soon felt at home enjoying the gentle breeze of the ocean.

Then they went out in one of the glass-covered bottom boats and here they were able to see the many specimens of fish that inhabited the waters in that locality. It was a novel and interesting trip as the guide would tell them the different kinds of fish that would show themselves in the water under the transparent bottom of the boat; then the bathing was fine.

The next day Jack took a trip with a gentleman friend who wanted to catch some large size fish, so they went out early and by ten o'clock they had succeeded in landing three fine specimens; and the fight they put up was well worth the patience and time spent in fishing for these fine large specimens.

After another day of rest the party came back to the city and then they stayed at home or didn't leave the city for the next week, enjoying the home comforts with a daily run about the city for an airing; then

to a show in one of the many theatres in the city, so it was one pleasant visit Jack, Pearl and Baby had from the first day to the last, when good bye was waved from the observation car and a stop over for a day at Santa Barbara, where another elegant resting place for the Eastern traveler is well filled in the winter season.

Here the party met some friends who happened to be visiting the hotel at the same time.

The next day the party took the train for San Francisco and arrived in due time; here they stayed for two days, stopping at a well-known hotel, where the most excellent service was rendered, and Jack and Pearl took advantage of the short time to see all the sights about the city. They visited the Golden Gate Park and Cliff House and then saw the new built city, which only eleven years before had been destroyed by the ravages of fire and earthquake, it was truly wonderful to see what strides these Californians had made, in erecting this new business district, which covered a distance six miles long and two miles wide.

In the old city district not a house or building was left standing intact as the flames had destroyed everything. Sometimes a fire is a blessing to a city, especially if the buildings are wooden structures, but this city was certainly new and a better built business section than the old one. But one could see where

much building had to be done to fill in the empty spaces where once stood either a dwelling or a store; but these citizens have a very courageous spirit and it was demonstrated, when this city pledged many millions of dollars when they built one of the finest Expositions that the world had ever seen, for elegance, durability, efficiency, the number of exhibitors and visitors; it was a great success and the city will always be looked upon as very patriotic, for, when they are called upon to buy bonds, or give donations to the Red Cross, they usually go beyond their quota and do it with a will. Many delightful hours were spent visiting the interesting stores and a trip to Mount Tamalpais was to be a treat that would end their stay in the city. When the top of this mountain was reached they could see for many miles in all directions and the city that lay before them looked so majestic with its tall buildings and wide streets as the sun made a very bright picture and surprised all who had made the trip. Winding about the mountain as they descended by a zigzag course through the whole journey they could see across the bay the cities of Oakland and Berkeley, which will some day be two of the finest cities, as they are located favorably and they can be reached by ferry boats which leave their docks every fifteen minutes.

The party reached the hotel and rested until the evening, when they started out on

a sight seeing tour of Chinatown; this tour was well worth taking for it is very evident that the Chinese are an exclusive people; they cling to ancient ideas of worship and to one another; they are entirely different, that is, most of them are, from the American ideas in business and sociability; still they seem to get along and prosper; they count up on their rings that remind one of the rings erected to keep tally of points in a billiard game.

These people are thrifty and honest and with the exception of occasional feuds that spring up once in a while that result in an encounter which usually ends disastrously to one faction or the other; altogether they are a law abiding people, and it is safe to go amongst them feeling secure against harm.

CHAPTER XIV.

A FAIRY STORY TOLD THE BABY

Next day found the party well on their way East, to stop only at St. Louis, Chicago, then home again, where they arrived in due time and found their own apartment snug and warm, though the frosty weather was rather a sudden change, compared to the California climate, but they were glad to get back to their steam heated apartment and as they were now finally established again, Jack and Pearl were so pleased to note the change in John Jr.; he talked and ran about freely and he got better looking, if this were possible, but to hear him tell of the sights he saw to Hilda and when she would ask questions he would always find a ready answer.

"We must go over to see mother," remarked Jack, as they took a walk around the blocks to the Riverside home and found the pair as happy as two doves.

"How did you find Alice?" asked Mr. Butterworth, as he greeted the party warmly.

"Lively as a kitten and as happy as any new bride could ever be," replied Jack.

"They have a very nice home and beautiful surroundings," remarked Pearl.

"That's good," replied Mr. Butterworth.

"Charles has made good," said Jack.

"I knew he would," replied Mrs. Butterworth.

"Well, Baby, how did you like the trip?" asked Mr. Butterworth.

"Ride choo choo car and went on water," said John Jr.

"You did, you little darling," exclaimed Mrs. Butterworth.

John Jr. was loved by all.

"Next winter Julia and I might go to California if Charles and Alice are in a position to receive us," suggested Mr. Butterworth.

"They mentioned it to us several times," remarked Pearl.

"Alice often writes and tells me the news," said Mr. Butterworth.

After an evening spent very pleasantly they returned to their own home, and it was the next evening they were invited to dinner at Pearl's mother's home, Jack arriving after his day's work at the office, and finding Pearl and John Jr. there.

"Hello, mother," exclaimed Jack, as he kissed her, "and how are you?"

"I am very well, Jack," replied Mrs. Summers.

"Don't you get lonesome, being all alone?" asked Jack.

"I'm pretty busy in the daytime, and my sister comes over nearly every day and she and I go to the Red Cross and do some sewing for the society," she replied.

"That's fine. Keep at it, mother. You are doing a good work," said Jack, as he seated himself to a very enjoyable meal, such as Mrs. Summers usually had, for she was accustomed to live well and her income from her father's estate was sufficient to keep her in a substantial way till the end of her days. Raymond and Pearl had received all of the estate of their father, which had been equally divided.

"I heard Belle Thompson is going to be a nurse," remarked Mrs. Summers.

"That's news. I'm glad to hear it," replied Pearl.

"We received a letter last week from Anna Williams, the nurse who was with Pearl in France, and she is still doing good work there," remarked Jack.

"She is such a noble character," said Pearl.

"Harry Thompson has been called in the draft," said Mrs. Summers.

"Harry is a fine young man," replied Jack.

"When is Belle going to France?" asked Pearl.

"I believe real soon," replied Mrs. Summers.

"I'll call on her in a day or two," remarked Pearl.

"Quite a few of your acquaintances are called, Jack," said Mrs. Summers.

"Yes, they are needed now by the thou-

sands, and many more of the boys will go; three of the force at my office have been called since I started on the trip," replied Jack.

"Is it hard to get young men for the office work?" asked Mrs. Summers.

"Very hard; they are at a premium. I'll have to replace the boys with girls; in fact, I have taken on two girls today," replied Jack.

"This is where we shine," remarked Pearl.

"Their day has come," said Jack.

"If this war would be over tomorrow, I wonder if the young men could get back their old positions," asked Mrs. Summers.

"I think all the firms would gladly give the boys their old places again if there were any possible need of them, but it will be adjusted when the time comes, no doubt, and all will be assisted in getting back into the office and other work," replied Jack.

"It will be hard, I'm afraid, for some to go back to books again after being in the trenches for so long," said Pearl, who knew something of the life of the soldier from her experience as a nurse on the front.

"They will be welcomed with warm hearts when they come back," replied Mrs. Summers.

"It will be some reception," remarked Jack.

"My papa was a soldier," said John Jr.

"Yes, dear son, and if it were possible I'd go again to serve," replied Jack.

"Nobly said, Jack," responded Pearl.

"The government will find some way for my services later, perhaps," remarked Jack.

"My son, Raymond, expects to be called any day now and I'm sorry he couldn't be here tonight, as he went to Boston yesterday," said Mrs. Summers.

"I'm glad I have a brother who will uphold the Stars and Stripes," remarked Pearl.

"Well, dear, let's hope they will all come back victorious," said Jack, as they came home after bidding their mother good night.

When John Jr. was getting ready to retire that night he climbed up into his father's lap.

"Papa, tell me a story," he asked.

"Why, son, I'm afraid I don't know any to tell you," he replied.

"Tell me one like mamma does," suggested his son, as he put his arms about his father's neck and kissed him; then nestled comfortably in his strong arms and waited patiently for the story to begin.

"Once upon a time there was a little Prince whose father was king of a very great country, and this Prince was walking through the big bedroom of his father's palace one day, when he saw a beautiful little angel standing right in the middle of the room, with a gold magic wand that she held in her right hand; the angel was dressed in

a beautiful cream colored silk robe with a belt around her waist like tassels tied and the ends hung down to one side; she looked very radiant and had large blue eyes and curly golden hair; she was smiling at the little Prince, as he stood as if he were afraid, but she told him not to be frightened as she was his little sister who lived in this very palace ten years before, but now she was a little Princess in spirit, and she had come to see her little brother about his daily lessons; she came over toward him, took his hand, led him to a spirit airship nearby and she told him to get in the airship so she could take him to her school away off in the spirit world; he held onto her hand and very soon they were flying through the air toward the sky so fast that in a few seconds they lost sight of the king's palace and went so far away that they could not see the world any more. Then the Princess spoke to her brother and pointed with her golden wand, and immediately they landed on a great platform made of pearl and as soon as they got out of the airship, the Princess waved her golden wand again and two great golden doors opened, then she told her brother to come with her; he was almost afraid to step on the nice green grass that was before them, but he followed her and they came to a beautiful big building that had lots of decorated windows in it and where many boys and girls were assembled to be taught their

daily lessons; they looked around when the children came in and were surprised to see a stranger who did not live in the Spirit Land come into their school, but they were polite little boys and girls and waited patiently until the Princess could explain to them just why she brought this stranger to their Spirit School. Presently she got up on the platform and asked the teacher if she could talk to the pupils and the teacher told her she had his permission. Then she said:

“ ‘My little spirit school friends: I know the secret, which I learned from my grandfather, how to reach the star you see way off in the heavens—the one our teacher pointed out to us the other night and told us that was the place we once lived, my grandfather knew just how to get there, so he told me, and today I just thought how nice it would be if I could go to see my little brother, who still lived in that star so very far away. I was a little bit frightened at first, but grandfather told me all I had to do was to keep still and hold this golden wand in my hand and I wish I was in the room where my little brother was; so I got ready and did as I was told and in one second I was right in the room where I saw my brother walking about; so I took his hand and brought him here; I didn’t have time to change his spirit clothes so that is why you noticed he didn’t belong to our world, but grandfather told me that if I cut the life line then my brother

would stay over here and be just like us, but he told me I was not allowed to do that, so I will be very careful and see what I can do with my golden wand and get a suitable robe for my brother.' Then she stood still and with a gentle wave of her golden wand, said: 'Good spirits, give my brother a nice silk robe as he should have, he being a Prince.' Then a ball of white light came from somewhere and passed over the Prince's head and instantly he was dressed in the garments of a Prince and he looked so very nice, that all the little spirit boys and girls loved him; for he smiled and said to them: 'How happy I feel to be in such a nice school, where many nice boys and girls are. I don't often see boys and girls where I live, for my father is a king and my teacher is a lady, who tells me many things that I should do; but I am glad to be with some little boys and girls like you,' he replied.

" 'What is his name?' asked one very bright little spirit girl.

" 'His name is Arthur and his last name is the same as mine,' replied the Princess, as she took her brother by the hand and led him to a seat close by, she sat down beside him. Now she was the only Princess and he the only Prince in the school, so they looked very beautiful with their fine robes and so did the other children. They all wore nice spirit robes, and when all were ready to begin the daily exercise, the teacher said:

“ ‘Princess Eileen, you are to be rewarded for your kindness in going to your little brother on the earth plane and here is a golden seal, given by the great King of the spirit world; it gives you special privileges to go to any place you like and to visit any other little boy or girl you find in your travels, who are good boys or girls; only those who obey their parents and love everybody—these you will be allowed to talk to, this will make all the children try to be good who hear this story and when they go to sleep then Princess Eileen will come to them and will wave the golden wand over their heads and take them out to this beautiful spirit land, to be with all the good boys and girls who loved everybody and now are happy and pleased to come to this school to learn their daily lessons,’ said the teacher.

“ ‘Thank you, kind spirit teacher,’ said Princess Eileen, bowing and seating herself.

“ ‘Now, children, we will begin our lesson,’ he said. Then he opened a book and when he opened it wide, there came out of the book such a lot of beautiful butterflies, which flew around the room, each little boy and girl saw a butterfly alight on each desk and one flew on the desk of little Prince Arthur.

“ ‘What will I do with it?’ asked Arthur, looking up at his sister.

“ ‘Wait and see,’ she replied.

“ ‘Now, children, you see the beauty of

the wings of the butterfly,' the teacher said.

" 'I see more, I see it has life,' one little boy said, looking up.

" 'And where does the life come from?' asked the teacher.

" 'It comes from God,' he replied.

" 'What gives it such beautiful wings, children?' asked the teacher.

" 'Because the soul of the butterfly had beautiful wings when it was born a caterpillar,' replied one bright girl.

" 'Well, why didn't the wings appear in the caterpillar?' asked the teacher.

" 'Because it had to throw off its coat before it could fly away,' replied Princess Eileen.

" 'That was very beautifully explained,' said the teacher, giving his gracious smile to the little Princess.

" 'Then its wings were there all the time,' said Prince Arthur.

" 'Yes, little stranger,' replied the teacher.

" 'Maybe I have wings so I can't see them, just like the caterpillar,' said Prince Arthur.

" 'Yes, you have, and when you go back in a few minutes you will be able to fly home, not with wings that flap like the butterfly, but simply by taking your soul wings and flying wherever you want to go, but your angel sister will have to teach you to fly, so you can come up here often when you are

asleep, for your body is asleep now; it is still and quiet, lying right down on the couch in the bedroom of the palace. Now, little Prince, we are glad you came with your charming sister, Princess Eileen, and we will let her take you back safely to your earthly home; take her hand and don't be afraid, for you can fly now.' Then the teacher took the children and sent them off into space, they traveled very quickly and soon arrived at the king's palace, and sure enough, there was Prince Arthur, lying on the couch fast asleep, then Princess Eileen said to the spirit of her brother: 'Now don't be afraid to come to school when I call for you again,' as she kissed the Prince. Then she raised the golden wand and held it over the spirit of the little Prince and immediately he was back in his body again, so here is the end of the story."

"Papa, will Princess Eileen come and take me?" asked his son.

"If you are a good boy," he replied.

"Will you tell me another story tomorrow night, papa?" he asked, as he kissed his father.

"Perhaps, if I can think of one. Now go to sleep and maybe Princess Eileen will take you to her beautiful spirit home to visit for a little while," replied Jack, as he kissed his son and said good-night.

**This book is under no circumstances to be
taken from the Building**

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